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Army attacks kill 19 in Sahara — Polisario

ALGIERS (AP) — Moroccan army attacks on guerrillas fighting for the independence of the Western Sahara have destroyed water holes and caused 19 deaths, the Polisario said Monday. Seven Moroccan army regiments have taken part in the attacks since Friday along the Western Sahara's borders with Algeria and Mauritania, said Ibrahim Hakim, spokesman for the Polisario movement in Algeria. They include mechanised infantry, armoured squadrons and artillery. Mr. Hakim claimed, Polisario continues to hold its military headquarters at Bir Lahlou, Hakim said, but the oasis has been "totally destroyed" by large-scale attacks centering on it. Nineteen people are dead and 65 missing due to attacks in the region, Polisario claimed in a separate communiqué released by its office in Madrid. "The majority of the dead are women and children who were unable to withstand the high temperatures and lack of water in the areas they were obliged to move to," the communiqué said. U.N. chief favours Sahara timetable, page 2.

Algerian opposition assails Libya

ALGIERS (R) — The leader of an Algerian opposition party has accused Libya of arming Tuareg rebels and turning the desert town of Tamanrasset into an "open market." "There are foreign funds, notably Libyan, exploiting the distress of certain populations they have recruited, trained and armed, making them believe all Tuaregs are Libyans," said Ahmad Khelil, head of the Free Social Party (PSP), in an interview published Monday. He told the Algerian daily Al Watan he had learned that "Tamanrasset has become an open market. Even Kabushnikov are on offer. This is extremely serious." On Friday Mr. Khelil warned a joint government-opposition conference that there was "a climate of insecurity in the deep south of the country." Tamanrasset is 1,970 kilometres south of Algiers near an area of desert in Algeria and neighbouring countries. In early July Algerian radio reported that an armed group "trained by a neighbouring country" had infiltrated the south to attack Tuareg refugees near Tamanrasset where one person was killed.

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Iraq says more than 14,000 children died due to embargo

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Monday more than 14,000 children had died from lack of drugs since the U.N. trade embargo was imposed last year. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted Dr. Shawkat Sabir, Minister of Health, as saying 14,333 children under the age of five had died since August last year, when sanctions were imposed as punishment for Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. INA quoted him as saying: "The reason for these deaths is lack of medicine and medical equipment." The embargo excludes food and medicine but Iraq does not have money and shipments are held up by red tape. On Aug. 15 the Security Council agreed to ease the sanctions allowing Iraq to sell some oil to buy food, drugs and other essential supplies, but the money is strictly controlled by the United Nations.

GCC military chiefs to meet in Oman

NICOSIA (R) — Armed Forces Chiefs of Staff from the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states will start a two-day meeting in Oman Tuesday to discuss military cooperation, the Kuwaiti News Agency said Monday. A delegation from GCC, which groups Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, arrived in Oman Sunday to prepare for the extraordinary meeting. The agency said the talks would cover "strengthening cooperation and coordination in various military fields in a way that would guarantee the stability of the six member states' security."

Iran says 42 drug rings busted

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian authorities broke up 42 drug trafficking rings between July 23 and Aug. 22, arrested 1,886 smugglers and confiscated 2,800 kilograms of narcotics, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Monday. Among 150 weapons and 109 vehicles were also seized from traffickers operating in Kerman, Isfahan, Khorasan, Fars and Tehran provinces, the news agency said. During the same period, 3,659 drug addicts were rounded up throughout the country, IRNA said. Iran has been involved in a lengthy battle against narcotics trafficking, a major problem because it is in one of the world's largest opium producing regions and because of a large adult population among its impoverished masses. Drug dealers are executed by hanging. Opposition groups abroad say the government has executed hundreds of political opponents under the guise of drug trials.

Kabul frees eight more guerrillas

KABUL (R) — The Soviet-backed Afghan government released eight more guerrillas Monday as part of an exchange for a Soviet prisoner freed earlier this month, RIA Cross officials said. They said the eight men were from the Pakistani town of Peshawar, raising the total of those released in the exchange so far to 20. Kabul agreed to release 25 jailed rebels in exchange for Soviet army technician Qurban Ali Tashirov, held by Mujahideen guerrillas. He was released in Peshawar Aug. 12 and delivered to a waiting Soviet envoy.

Israeli Druze author banned by community

TEL AVIV (R) — Elders of Israel's Druze community have banned Druze and religious contacts with a Druze author who published a novel about the life of a girl, Yehudit, said Monday. The Druze author, Mustapha Habbay, said the radio he had destroyed the book in a futile effort to forestall the ban. Mr. Habbay published "Diary of a Druze Girl" last week. After hundreds of angry telephone calls, including some threatening his life, he burned copies of the book in public and withdrew it from publication.

Gorbachev accepts blame for coup, vows continued reform

Congress of People's Deputies to meet Sept. 2; breakaway republics gain increased foreign support

Combined agency despatches

A CHASTENED President Mikhail Gorbachev Monday blamed himself for failing to head off the hardline communist coup and promised national elections for all government posts — including his own.

In an address to Soviet lawmakers meeting in emergency session, Mr. Gorbachev also pledged to remake a union sent reeling towards disintegration in the aftermath of last week's three-day coup.

Six of the 15 Soviet republics — most recently Byelorussia and the Ukraine — have declared independence. Georgia took measures to secede earlier this year, and Moldavia is to consider formal secession Tuesday.

And the failure of the coup has given a big boost to independence drives in the Baltics. Numerous nations are moving toward recognising the independence of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, and calls for recognising their independence were heard Monday in the Supreme Soviet (see page 8).

In his speech to the Supreme Soviet legislature, Mr. Gorbachev said he had returned from his three-day imprisonment that ended Wednesday to a "different country." The legislators erupted in applause.

"Immediately after the union treaty is signed, we must begin a campaign to elect all union organs, including the president," Mr. Gorbachev said. He did not

give a timetable.

Mr. Gorbachev previously proposed drafting a new Soviet constitution within six months of the signing of the union treaty, to be followed by elections. Diplomats and Soviet officials say that process could take two years.

Mr. Gorbachev's chances of concluding a union treaty to bind the republics together in a looser federation have been put in serious doubt by the quick moves by the Soviet republics to leave the Soviet Union.

Also Monday:

— Lawmakers voted 436-7 with 15 abstentions to scrutinise the behaviour of all Soviet organisations, presumably including the Communist Party, the KGB and the Defence Ministry, during the coup. They also voted to demand an "informational report" on the putsch from Mr. Gorbachev.

— New Soviet Defence Minister Yevgeny Shaposhnikov told reporters he would reorganise the general staff.

— The acting speaker of the Supreme Soviet, Ivan Laptev, announced that the government newspaper Izvestia had been made independent. The state news agency TASS also said it intended to become independent.

— TASS reported in a brief dispatch that Nikolai Krushina, business manager of the Communist Party's policy setting Central Committee, had committed suicide. It did not say when that happened.

— Sergei F. Akhromyev, Mr. Gorbachev's chief military adviser, hanged himself in his Kremlin office Saturday.

— Last week, one of the eight coup leaders, Interior Minister Boris Pugo, was found fatally shot in his Moscow

apartment. Initial reports said he shot himself, but those who found him said he may have been murdered.

— Lawmakers voted to convene an extraordinary session of the parliament's parent body, the Congress of People's Deputies, Sept. 2.

— Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin, who emerged as the main power broker after leading resistance to the coup, had suggested Sunday the congress meet instead of the Supreme Soviet and formally dissolve Mr. Gorbachev's cabinet. Many cabinet members were involved in the coup.

— Minutes before parliament convened Monday, the body's chairman, Anatoly Lukyanov, announced he had resigned. Lukyanov, a friend of Mr. Gorbachev since law school, decided he joined the coup plotters. Mr. Yeltsin had accused Mr. Lukyanov of being a driving force behind the conspiracy.

— The Russian Republic said it reserved the right to question its borders with any Soviet republic which withdrew from the Soviet Union.

— A statement signed by President Yeltsin's press spokesman, issued by TASS news agency, excluded the three Baltic republics with which Russia has signed agreements.

— "Should these (relations with other republics in the Soviet Union) cease, the Russian Federation reserves the right to raise the question of reviewing the frontiers," it said.

— Mr. Gorbachev Monday told the Supreme Soviet the coup "did not break out unexpectedly, out of the blue. Its forerunners were hysterical publications by the rightists in the press and at central committee (meetings) ... and the open sabotage of many perestroika-related decisions by party state structures."

"In a word, the plot was ripening," he said.

"At the same time, instead of decisive actions and measures, liberalism and leniency were shown. I blame myself first of all for this."

Mr. Gorbachev said there "is a lesson of the first order, a more important one, or reason, which made possible this attempt against democracy, the attempt to turn the country back to totalitarianism by force."

"This reason," he said, was "a lack of decisiveness and consistency in carrying out democratic reforms."

"It's not only my fault, but the fault of all of us, the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, the leading organs of the party, the government."

"Our good intentions, our well-formulated goals and plans were largely not fulfilled because we failed to change the old mechanism of power."

Now, the military must be retrained and KGB reformed, the public must make more economic decisions and land reform must be instituted along with new efforts to combat the budget deficit, he said.

Mr. Gorbachev said he would not waver in his six-year-old programme of political and social reform.

Mr. Gorbachev had shocked the world Saturday by announcing his resignation as head of the Communist Party, the primary engine in the political and social life of the Soviet Union for more than seven decades.

Mr. Gorbachev, however, said he would remain a party member. Outside the chamber, former KGB Colonel Oleg Kalugin, a reformer who has openly criticised the secret police, said he expected the KGB would be "dissolved and reconstructed ... so it will be an entirely

(Continued on page 5)

U.N. chief sees progress in Lebanon hostage talks

GENEVA (Agencies) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Monday he saw signs of progress in the Middle East hostage crisis and he would meet an Iranian envoy Tuesday.

He spoke to reporters after being briefed by his personal representative, Giandomenico Picco, who returned from a visit to Israel last week.

"I continue my hope that something very important will happen in seeing all the detainees set free," he said. "When, I cannot say, but things are moving and moving at a good pace."

He said Iran's envoy might be its ambassador to the United Nations in New York, Kamal Kharrazi, with whom he discussed the hostage issue in Geneva two weeks ago.

In Beirut, a leader of the group believed to be the umbrella organisation for the hostage holders reiterated that it held two missing Israelis but refused to reveal whether they were alive or dead (see page 2).

Mr. Perez de Cuellar arrived in Geneva Sunday after a vacation in Portugal. Before leaving Lisbon he told reporters he hoped to have "some results before the end of this month or the beginning of next month," according to his spokeswoman Nadia Younes. Meanwhile, the Beirut daily

L'Orient le Jour reported Monday that Iran had dispatched the commander of its Revolutionary Guards, Rafik Dost, to Beirut. Mr. Dost is "armed with special powers to accelerate arrangements for a global deal on the hostages," the paper quoted an unidentified source in east Lebanon.

Mohammad Sherri, spokesman for the Iranian embassy, said he was not authorised to comment on newspaper reports. A spokesman for Hizbollah (Party of God), Iran's chief ally in Lebanon, also declined comment.

The independent daily said Mr. Dost has been in Beirut for several days, but gave no details of his meetings or activities.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards have an estimated 3,000-man contingent based since 1982 in east Lebanon's town of Baalbek, where most of the 11 Westerners missing in Lebanon are believed held.

Hizbollah, the nimbrella for hostage-holders, also has bases in and around Baalbek, 65 kilometres east of Beirut.

One hostage-holding faction has demanded that Israel free some 4,000 Lebanese prisoners, including fundamentalist Shiite cleric Abdul Karim Obeid, in exchange for the Western hostages.

Moscow will continue role in peace efforts

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Soviet Union will continue working with the United States and Egypt to find a peaceful settlement to the Middle East conflict, Moscow's ambassador to Egypt said Monday.

Vladimir Poliakov spoke to reporters after delivering to Egypt's foreign minister Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's thanks for the support of President Hosni Mubarak and Egypt during last week's failed coup in the Soviet Union.

"The leaders of the coup were not interested in establishing peace in the Middle East," Mr. Poliakov said. "The Soviet Union will continue its role in supporting the peace process. Events will not affect this role."

Amr Moussa, the foreign minister, said he told Mr. Poliakov of Egypt's interest in continuing the search for regional peace. Mr. Moussa said he reiterated Egypt's support for Mr. Gorbachev and for Moscow's role in the peace process.

Shortly before last week's coup, Mr. Gorbachev and U.S. President George Bush agreed to host a Middle East peace conference to end the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The conference is scheduled tentatively for October, although obstacles remain such as who will represent the Palestinians.

Syria said Monday the failed Soviet coup would not hinder the peace process but "obstacles" raised by Israel cast doubt on convening the talks in October.

"The recent events in the Soviet Union will not block the Middle East peace process but Israel's insistence on banning certain Palestinians from peace talks is putting a proposed peace conference in doubt," Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa told Reuters in an interview.

Israel refuses to deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and rules out Palestinian negotiators from Arab East Jerusalem.

Mr. Sharaa said that if the Soviet coup had succeeded, Middle East peace efforts would have been blocked because it would have been difficult for the U.S. government to deal with the coup leaders.

"The Palestinians have made two main concessions for the convening of the conference and agreed not to let representatives of the PLO to take part directly and that the Palestinian delegation be joint with the Jordanian delegation."

"Palestinians should decide for themselves who should represent them at the talks. Israel's attempts to exclude Palestinians from the peace talks is unjust and will not lead to peace," he said.



ARAB PROTEST: Leaders of the Arab community in Israel stage protests in front of the office of the Israeli prime minister in support of their demands for parity with Jews in government

allocations. The protesters, who have been staging a sit-in strike on the site, have decided to step up their action since, they say, the Israeli interior and finance ministers were avoiding the issue.

Arafat leaves Amman after talks, continues to seek U.S. guarantees

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat left Amman Monday after a one-day visit during which he held talks with His Majesty King Hussein on the proposed Middle East peace conference.

According to sources quoted by the Associated Press, Mr. Arafat held talks with Prime Minister Taher Masi and Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensour before his departure. There was no official confirmation of the report.

"The talks centred on efforts to coordinate stands towards convening a Middle East peace conference and ensuring its success," said an unidentified senior official quoted by the AP.

According to another "well-placed Jordanian source" quoted by Reuters, Mr. Arafat was maintaining a tough line on the conference and wanted guarantees from the U.S.

"They (Mr. Arafat and the PLO) are taking their time to see what they can get," said a senior Jordanian official quoted by Reuters.

Yasser Abed Rabbo, a member of the PLO Executive Committee who attended Mr. Arafat's talks here, said in comments published in the local press as well as the AP that the PLO was seeking

guarantees from Washington that Israel will totally withdraw from all Arab territories occupied in the 1967 war and freeze all settlement activities in the occupied territories.

Mr. Abed Rabbo said the PLO also wanted promises from Arab countries that they would normalise relations with Israel until the Jewish state withdrew from all Arab territories and the Palestinians secured their legitimate rights.

"The PLO cannot accept the current formula for the conference," he said.

"... It only offers us approval for the continuation of occupation and gives a cover for settlement. If negotiations continue for several years during which settlement also continues we will find at the end of the political process that there is nothing we can negotiate on," he said.

The visit was the PLO chairman's first visit here since Jordan said in July it would attend a U.S. and Soviet-sponsored conference and offered to form a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Informed sources told the Jordan Times Sunday that Jordan and the PLO had agreed to set up a joint committee to work out a "joint negotiating position." This was confirmed by Mr. Abed Rabbo Monday.

Mr. Abed Rabbo told the AP that the form of Palestinian participation in the peace talks will be

decided once the PLO receives the sought for U.S. assurances. He said if the "PLO does not receive these assurances, it will be difficult for us and the Palestinian people to participate in the peace conference."

The PLO official affirmed that a decision regarding Palestinian participation in the peace conference will be discussed and announced by the Palestine National Council (PNC).

A meeting of the 450-member PNC is scheduled for Sept. 20 in Algiers.

Mr. Abed Rabbo, who is also the head of the PLO's Information Department, said Jordan and the PLO agreed Sunday to form a committee consisting of Jordanian and PLO officials to "follow up developments concerning better conditions for Palestinian participation in the peace conference."

The PLO has said it favoured an independent delegation to peace talks with Israel. But it said it would not mind joining Jordan or other Arabs in a delegation once it receives the U.S. assurances.

Foreign Minister Ensour said Sunday the U.S. position on the conference had been a main topic of discussion between the King and Mr. Arafat.

King Hussein has said he believes the Palestinians will agree to attend the conference.

Israeli police question Hussein, Ashrawi over London meetings

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Police questioned two Palestinian leaders Monday about allegations that they broke Israeli law by meeting with members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Faisal Hussein and Hanan Ashrawi spent two hours at a police station near Tel Aviv. They said they were not charged but had to post bail of 5,000 shekels (\$2,000) each.

Mr. Hussein, who lives in Arab East Jerusalem, and Mrs. Ashrawi, from the occupied West Bank town of Ramallah, have been meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and other State Department officials to discuss Palestinian participation in Middle East talks.

They were summoned for questioning after hardline cabinet ministers claimed they met with PLO officials abroad in violation of a 1986 Israeli law banning contacts with "terrorist organisations."

Mr. Hussein and Mrs. Ashrawi have not said whom they met on their recent travel abroad, but insist all their talks were aimed at advancing the Middle East peace process.

After the session with police, they told "reporters they did not respond to police questions about

whether they met PLO officials. Small rival demonstrations by Israelis outside the station produced a bizarre incident in which two armed Jewish extremists entered the building and threatened at least one of the Palestinians in an interrogation room.

"They were speaking in Hebrew (which) I could not understand, but I got up from my seat and moved to a place which was less exposed."

Tiran Pollak of the extreme Kach movement left the police station boasting that he got close enough to Mr. Hussein to threaten him. But Mr. Hussein, 51, said he did not see any Kach members.

Mr. Pollak said his group was demonstrating outside the building when police called them in to check their weapons licences. He said he was then left to wander about the station, and he chanced upon Mr. Hussein.

Police said the incident was being investigated.

Mrs. Ashrawi said police questioned them about alleged meetings with PLO officials in London and Tunisia.

Israeli peace activist Ahie Nathan served four months in jail for meeting PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in 1989. He is under police investigation for meeting with Mr. Arafat again this summer.

A 17-year-old Palestinian woman tried to stab a border policeman guarding Housing Minister Ariel Sharon's house in the Muslim quarter of Jerusalem, police said.

Guards overpowered her and she was taken in for questioning. The border policeman wore a bullet-proof vest and was not injured, police said. Mr. Sharon was not home, his office said.

Israeli forces arrested four Arabs alleged to be members of a ring plotting attacks against Israelis, Israel Radio said Sunday.

It said the leader of the group was an Israeli Arab who had joined the PLO's mainstream Fatah movement while on pilgrimage to Mecca.

Two of those arrested were from the town of Taibe and the other two were Palestinians from the West Bank.

The radio said security forces also confiscated the group's large weapons cache. The arrests were made before the group carried out any attacks, it said.

Report finds rising Jewish settlement, seizures of land

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — An Arab human rights group on Monday reported a dramatic rise in Jewish settlement and seizures of Palestinian land in the occupied territories since Soviet Jews began flooding into Israel.

Al Haq, a Palestinian research body affiliated with the International Commission of Jurists, said more than 233,000 Jews now live in the occupied territories, an increase of at least 26,000 since the start of 1990.

The Israeli government had taken 50-60 per cent of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip by the end of 1989 but added at least another seven per cent since then, the report said.

"Al Haq is gravely concerned with the greatly expanded pace of Israeli land acquisition and settlement since the beginning of 1990 and in view of the existing plans for almost completely colonising the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip," it said.

"These policies and practices pose a grave threat to the well-being of the Palestinian population and an even greater threat to any long-term solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict," it said.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Sha-

mir's government launched a rapid building programme in the occupied territories, home to nearly two million Palestinians, after Soviet immigration began accelerating in late 1989.

Jewish immigration, now running at about 10,000 arrivals per month after reaching 30,000 per month late last year, has totalled about 310,000 since the beginning of 1990.

Nearly 90 per cent are from the Soviet Union, which gradually lifted restrictions on Jewish emigration after President Mikhail Gorbachev took office in 1985.

Al Haq said at least 16,300 immigrants have settled in East Jerusalem. Few countries concede Israeli "sovereignty" and Palestinians see the Arab half of the city as the future capital of a Palestinian state.

At least 4,000 other Jewish immigrants have settled in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in this period, but many more Israelis have been pushed into the area by the new arrivals.

The report said the government absorbs some two-thirds of housing costs for a Jewish family moving to the occupied territories.

Even income tax is reduced by seven per cent.

The Israeli government is committed to increasing settlement in the occupied territories to ensure its continued control, a policy Washington has labelled a major obstacle to peace.

Mr. Shamir has vowed never to withdraw from occupied Palestinian lands, although that will be the central issue at a Middle East peace conference proposed by Washington for October.

Al Haq called for international action to enforce the Geneva conventions governing occupying powers, saying Israeli settlements and land seizures clearly violated them.

The conventions ban altering the population of an occupied area, including settling its own people, and restrict land seizures. The U.N. Charter also says the interests of the inhabitants of occupied lands are paramount.

Al Haq said the land was taken through military orders which declared areas necessary for military needs, abandoned by Palestinians outside the country at the time of the 1967 war, or needed for "public purposes" such as Jewish settlement.

U.N. chief favours maintaining timetable of W. Sahara plan

GENEVA (R) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Sunday he favoured maintaining the U.N. timetable for ending war in the Western Sahara despite renewed fighting there.

An informal truce which lasted nearly two years was broken by fighting this month between Morocco and the Polisario guerrillas, shortly before a formal ceasefire due to take effect on Sept. 6.

Morocco's King Hassan said last Tuesday the whole U.N. plan, which envisaged a referendum in January on the territory's future, should be delayed because the United Nations had failed to fulfil key requirements in time.

Asked his reaction to the king's speech, delivered on Moroccan television, Mr. Perez de Cuellar told reporters: "I will have to study it."

Asked if he thought the Sept. 6 date should remain, he said: "I would like to maintain this date."

He discussed the Western Sahara with Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdullatif Filali in Geneva Aug 13 and said he had been in touch with the Moroccans again in the last few days while he was on holiday in Portugal.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar plans to meet Polisario representatives in Geneva this week, possibly as early as Monday.

A U.N. spokeswoman said representatives of Algeria, where most of the Polisario guerrillas are based, and Mauritania would be in Geneva to monitor the discussions.

Asked if the fighting in the phosphate-rich former Spanish colony endangered the whole U.N. peace plan, Mr. Perez de Cuellar said it was premature to say before his meetings this week.

King Hassan said that in the four months before the formal ceasefire the United Nations should have consulted tribal chiefs, decided who would vote and signed a written accord with Morocco on the powers of a U.N. mission to supervise the ceasefire and referendum.

None of these conditions had been fulfilled so far, he said.

A United Nations statement Monday said Mr. Perez de Cuellar feared the situation could worsen unless there was "immediate, determined and constructive action in full cooperation with the parties."

It was essential that both sides scrupulously respected their commitments under the U.N. peace plan.

"That is why the secretary-general insists today that the parties abstain from all action liable to aggravate the situation," the statement said.

Iran that he was going to Tehran to discuss reparations from the Iran-Iraq war.

"I have a long-standing invitation from Iran to visit their country," he told an airport news conference.

He said he had been there twice to discuss U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 which ended the Iran-Iraq war and added: "There are still some problems which have to be settled as far as that specific resolution is concerned, and perhaps at some stage I will have to discuss with them as well as with the Iraqis the full implementation of 598."

"I do not have any date, but as soon as I think that my visit would be useful, I would not hesitate a single minute in going there to continue, as it is my duty, to obtain the full implementation of the resolution."

Resolution 598 did not specifically mention compensation, but requested the secretary-general to explore the question of setting up an impartial body to inquire into which side was responsible for the war.

It also recognised the need for reconstruction, "with appropriate international assistance," and asked the secretary-general to assign a team of experts to study the question and report to the Security Council.

It also called for a just and honourable settlement of all outstanding issues.

Iran-Iraq talks

Iran held talks Sunday with an Iraqi official about the return of remaining prisoners from their 1980-1988 war and other issues.

The Iranian news agency IRNA said Iraqi Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Sa'ad Abdul Majid Al Faisal and Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Manuchehr Mottaki also discussed the dredging of the Arvand River (Shatt Al Arab), the demarcation of border points and the question of Iraqi planes grounded in Iran.

IRNA said they agreed to set up joint committees to handle the issue of remaining prisoners of war and those missing in action, and to deal with Iraqi refugees in Iran and Iranian citizens in Iraq.

Mr. Faisal is the first Iraqi official to visit Iran since the Gulf war and the subsequent Shiite and Kurdish unrest. Relations deteriorated after Iraq accused Iran of supporting and even taking part in the Shiite rebellion.

Iraq says 148 of its warplanes flew to Iran to escape allied bombing in the Gulf war. Iran has acknowledged the arrival of less than a third of that number and says many are in poor condition. Several crash-landed, killing their pilots.

Tehran has said it will return the planes but showed no signs of doing so.

Visit to Iran

Mr. Perez de Cuellar, who later flew into Geneva, would not directly confirm the report from

Hizbollah: Israel will not get 'free' information

BEIRUT (Agencies) — The pro-Iranian fundamentalist group Hizbollah said Monday it would give no more information on the fate of the two Israeli soldiers it held captive to the Jewish state without getting something in return.

Israel has demanded concrete word on its seven servicemen missing in Lebanon before any deal could be made to trade nearly 400 Arabs detained by Israel or its militia allies for up to 10 Westerners held hostage by shadowy groups linked to Hizbollah.

"We have two Israeli captives and we think this (amount of information) is enough because (giving) other details would be a free service to Israel which we don't give," said Sheikh Na'eem Qassem, deputy secretary-general of Hizbollah.

"Israel should free the captives and detainees it has inflicted injustice upon without any unrealistic conditions," he told the Lebanese Druze radio station Voice of the Mountain.

He denied reports his Shiite Muslim underground group had been in contact with the Jewish state over the hostages, Arab detainees and missing. "There are no relations or contacts with the Israeli enemy and we are not considering it," Mr. Qassem said.

Asked about reports all seven Israeli soldiers or airmen were dead, the Hizbollah (Party of God) cleric said: "What is the source of the information given by some people about the non-existence of living Israeli captives in Lebanon?"

Hizbollah, which denies any links to hostage-takers, will not say if the Israelis it held captive are alive or dead.

Sheikh Mohammad Mehdi Shamseddine, the religious leader of Lebanon's moderate Shiite Muslims, said Friday he had been told all seven Israelis were dead but did not indicate the source of his information.

Negotiations for a proposed all-round exchange are being led by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar. They began soon after two Western hostages — Briton John McCarthy and American Edward Tracy — were freed more than two weeks ago.

Mr. McCarthy delivered a letter from his captors, Islamic Jihad, to the U.N. chief on Aug. 11 that said the kidnappers wanted to end the ordeal of the hostages, some held for more than six years, in an exchange for Arab prisoners world-wide.

A spokesman for Mr. Perez de Cuellar said Monday the U.N. chief hopes for results on ending the hostages' issue later this week or at the beginning of next month.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar left Geneva on Aug. 15 after intensive meetings with Israeli, Iranian and Western officials.

Israel's chief hostage negotiator Uri Lubrani told NBC Television Sunday he had firm evidence Israeli airman Roo Arad, whose plane was shot down over Lebanon in 1986, was alive.

"We know that Ron Arad, the navigator, is in the hands of Iranians or Iraqis controlled from Tehran," said Mr. Lubrani.

Pressed on whether Mr. Arad was definitely alive, he said firmly: "We have no doubt about it."

Of the seven, captured after Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, Mr. Arad was the only one who had been seen alive. He was held first by members of the Amal militia who later defected to Hizbollah, which would not say if it held Mr. Arad.

Japanese minesweepers clear area off Iran, Iraq

BAHRAIN (R) — Japanese minesweepers have cleared a 500-square-kilometre area off the coasts of Iran and Iraq where they were the only foreign navy permitted to work, the commander of Japanese forces in the Gulf said Monday.

Captain Taosa Ochiai, commander of a six-ship Japanese force, told reporters it had destroyed 17 mines in the northern Gulf, near the Shatt Al Arab waterway on the Iran-Iraq border.

Japan was the only country whose navy received permission from Iran and Iraq to work in their territorial waters.

"We finished clearing our half of that minefield in August. The U.S. navy is responsible for the southern half," he said, referring to a 1,000-square-kilometre area in the northern Gulf.

The four minesweepers and two support vessels arrived in the Gulf in June on Japan's first overseas military assignment since World War II.

Capt. Ochiai said the Japanese ships had received a very warm welcome when they visited the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas between Aug. 22 and 24.

Capt. Ochiai said the foreign navies working to clear the northern Gulf had destroyed a total of 1,260 mines to date.

Iran had given the allied forces only vague details of about 1,200 mines after the six-week war ended in February, he said.

Capt. Ochiai said that during July the Japanese ships also found 17 mines in another large minefield south of Kuwait.

After their rest stop in Bahrain, they would return to the northern Gulf and begin clearing a berthing area for ships off the Kuwaiti port of Shuaiba, he said.

Capt. Ochiai said the Japanese ships would return home as planned in mid-September. Japan's Deputy Defence Minister Kazuo Eguchi told reporters in Dubai earlier this month Tokyo had no plans to maintain forces in the area.

Cyprus coup leader begins legal battle

NICOSIA (R) — Jailed Cypriot coup leader Nicos Sampson began a legal battle Monday to end a 20-year jail term, arguing that 11 years in exile in France should count towards his sentence.

Mr. Sampson, whose short-lived coup prompted the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974, was not allowed to leave Nicosia central prison to make the appeal.

Lawyers for the former EOKA independence guerrilla fighter lodged an application in the supreme court arguing his sentence had expired and his continued detention was illegal.

Official estimates say he should leave prison, on Feb. 6, 1994 but the lawyers want 11 years in France to be counted as part of the punishment.

Supreme Court Judge Demetrios Stylianides said he would rule on the application on Sept. 6.

Mr. Sampson, 55, took office after a July 1974 coup in Nicosia engineered by the military junta then ruling Greece which overthrew Archbishop Makarios, the island's first president.

"Turkey invaded six days later saying it feared for the safety of Turkish Cypriots, and continues to hold the northern third of the island."

Mr. Sampson resigned after eight days and the crisis brought down his junta backers to Athens.

He was jailed for 20 years in 1976 for military action against the republic of Cyprus. The sentence was later reduced by seven years by the then President Spyros Kyprianou.

In April 1979 Mr. Kyprianou allowed him to travel to Europe for medical treatment. The permission was repealed in December 1980.

But Mr. Sampson remained in exile in Paris for nearly 11 years before returning voluntarily in June last year. He was immediately taken to prison to serve the rest of his sentence.

His lawyer, Manolis Christodides, argued that Mr. Sampson's 11 years abroad should count as part of the sentence and should include presidential pardons handed down to all prisoners.

Mr. Sampson was sentenced to death by the British for his role in the Greek-Cypriot guerrilla campaign for union with Greece, but was freed at independence in 1960.

Israeli army to channel more funds into developing arms

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's military plans wide-ranging cutbacks in daily operations to free funds for weapon development, research and acquisition, a military source said Sunday.

The cutbacks "are efforts to save money on daily maintenance in all types of areas in order to invest in the future," the source said.

Reserve duty will be cut drastically, with training and ammunition for reserve soldiers strictly limited. Daily deployment of tanks, aircraft and armoured vehicles will drop, sources said.

Operational activities in South Lebanon, the occupied territories, and the demarcation lines will be reduced, military officials told Israel Radio.

The overall cuts announced Sunday would add up to 300 million shekels (\$125 million) annually, the radio added.

"Some army officials have already warned the cutbacks may be dangerous," the radio said.

But the military source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said reserve corps cutbacks "would also be dependent on actual developments and the real threat at the time, so that adjustments would be made according to reality."

All cuts would be made "balancing off legitimate security concerns of the present with investing in future," the source added.

The army's training branch will be eliminated and combined into other units. The Gadna army scouting programme will be incorporated into the education corps, saving manpower in both areas, the source said.

Over twenty per cent of the personnel corps will be cut. Trips abroad, phone calls, housing allowances and army magazines will also be slashed, Israel Radio said.

The number of paid regular soldiers will also be limited, with as many as possible being replaced by conscripts, the radio added.

"Wherever cutbacks can be made, they will be," the source said.

"The general idea is to cut down as much as possible on daily routine functioning of the army in order to invest in the future — in future weapons development, acquisition and research," the military source said.

"Some of this was planned earlier, but much has taken impetus since the new chief of staff came into office," he added.

Chief of staff Elad Barak, who assumed his post on April 1, has been quoted as saying he wants to do away with whatever does not shoot.

In June, he ignited a public debate with several proposals to cut costs by eliminating several traditional army operations not directly related to battle.

General Barak is expected to release an overall military plan before the end of the year.

The finance ministry has urged the military to slash "layers of fat" it estimates cost one billion shekels (\$416 million) annually, Israel Radio said.

Turkish protest continues at Greek Orthodox patriarchate

ISTANBUL (AP) — Turkish immigrants from Greece Monday kept up a demonstration at the Greek Orthodox patriarchate to protest Athens' appointment of a religious Muslim leader in a Greek town.

The sit-in started Sunday by about 100 Turks representing the Solidarity Association of Turks from Western Thrace. It blocked the entrance to the patriarchate in downtown Istanbul.

Members of the Muslim minority in Western Thrace, numbering approximately 120,000 and about half of whom comprise ethnic Turks, demanded that they elect their religious leader rather than have him appointed by the Greek government.

The protesters want the Greek

Orthodox patriarch, Dimitrios I. to condemn the Greek government's position on the Muslim minority in Western Thrace.

"Our action is not against the patriarchate," said Tabbis Salihoglu, president of the association.

Police struck security measures around the area but there were no reports of incidents.

Mr. Salihoglu said the protest action was against the violation of the human rights of Muslims in Western Thrace.

The patriarchate is a left over from the Greek Byzantine empire which collapsed when the Ottoman Turks conquered Constantinople (now Istanbul) in 1453.

There are about 5,000 ethnic Greeks living in Turkey, mainly

in Istanbul, down from 100,000 when the Turkish republic was proclaimed in 1920.

Turkey and Greece disagree over the identity of the Muslim minority in Thrace. Greece recognises only their religious identity. References to ethnicity have been banned since 1978.

Christian shopkeepers and Muslims clashed in the Greek town of Xanthi Saturday during a Muslim protest on the multi issue. Thirteen people were slightly injured.

In a letter sent to the patriarch, Mr. Salihoglu said, the religious leader was told: "Our aim is not to harass you. We would like to believe that you will... be of assistance to us... we demand that you make the announcement

in question (condemning the Greek government's move) before the world public opinion as soon as possible."

He also called on international human rights organisations to support the protest action.

Calls to the patriarchate went unanswered.

On Sunday, the Greek Foreign Ministry ordered Greece's ambassador in Ankara to lodge a protest with Turkey "for all the necessary steps to be taken by the Turkish authorities to end the impermissible blockade" of the Greek Orthodox patriarchate.

Turkish Foreign Ministry officials in Ankara said Monday that no such demand had reached them.

Libyans celebrate opening of their man-made river

TRIPOLI (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi opens the taps this week on his great Man-Made River — 1,900 kilometres of pipeline carrying water from deep beneath the sands to make the Libyan desert bloom.

Colonel Qadhafi says the water from natural lakes below the desert will transform it into a garden of Eden, recalling the days when North Africa was an agricultural centre for the ancient city of Carthage.

The project carries with it his dream of keeping his country well-watered long after its oil runs dry, and of turning Libya into a land of agricultural plenty able to export food and water to Arab allies.

His neighbours, their own water resources stretched close to the limit, are watching with interest to see if his ambitious scheme to irrigate the Sahara will prove a stroke of technical genius or just a costly mirage.

The pipeline, the first phase of a wider irrigation and farming scheme, will be inaugurated Wednesday in a state ceremony followed a few days later by celebrations to mark the anniversary of the coup which brought Col. Qadhafi to power in 1969.

Col. Qadhafi has asked other heads of state to join him for the inauguration and has invited the world's media to see what Arab vision, with a little outside help, can achieve.

The \$14 billion project is a modern version of the bedouin practice of sinking wells into the desert, with the addition of a pipeline system taking the water to coastal cities where most of Libya's four million people live.

It taps pure "fossil water" from wells aquifers formed during the ice age and carries it from wells at Sarir and Tazerbo to the Mediterranean coast.

The first phase involved laying a chain of pipes, each four metres in diameter, and building reservoirs near the drinking port of Benghazi and further west at Sirte to supply drinking water to the coastal settlements.

The next phases will see the construction of a pipeline to Tripoli from an aquifer in western Libya, as well as

irrigation and agriculture schemes which have attracted bids from a host of companies in Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

The aim is to make Libya at least self-sufficient in food and decrease its dependence on oil-funded imports.

"You could just about compare it to the pyramids in scale," said David Williams, general manager of the London project office of engineering firm Brown and Root, consultants for the Man-Made River project, in a recent interview.

With a flow rate of around two million cubic metres a day there should be enough water for up to 400 years, he says.

The pipeline has taken 10 years to build, surviving a financial squeeze from falling oil prices during the 1980s and a U.S. trade embargo to become an obvious source of Libyan national pride.

North Africa and the Middle East face water crises in the coming years as agriculture and booming populations put ever greater demands on their supplies.

Turkey has come into conflict with downstream states over the use of water from the Euphrates and Tigris. Egypt and Sudan most share the Nile.

Egypt, once fearful that the Libyan waters could suck out its own underlying water, now hopes to take advantage of stronger ties with its neighbour and reap benefits from the pipeline.

Libya has said a million Egyptians could be settled in its new oases around the river, a welcome offer as Cairo struggles to cope with an influx of workers returning from the Gulf.

Despite the benefits of the Man-Made River, its environmental impact has some development experts worried.

The project raises questions about how much water will be wasted and how long reserves will last if others copy Libya's example, said Lloyd Timberlake, a director of the London-based International Institute for Environmental Development.

There is also the sensitive issue of water ownership where aquifers lie beneath national frontiers.

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00	Documentary
18:30	Shi'ite Catechism
19:00	News in French
19:15	Arjoud'ni in Jordan
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Perfect Strangers
20:45	Museums in Jordan
21:10	Our House
22:00	News in English
22:30	Columbo

PRAYER TIMES

06:41	Fajr
06:02	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:37	Dhuhr
16:14	'Asr
19:12	Maghrib
20:34	Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Swedisch Tel. 810740.

Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785, 685326.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Sante Church Tel. 661757

Terraviva Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Armenian International Church Tel. 685326.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811225.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 649392.

Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675691.

WEATHER

Beijing supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair and winds will be north-westerly moderate, freshening at times. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

	Min/Max temp.
Amman	18 / 28
Aqaba	23 / 35
Deserts	19 / 32
Jordan Valley	23 / 36

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Aqaba 37. Humidity readings: Amman 47 per cent, Aqaba 38 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Hussein Haddad 731267

Dr. Abdul Aziz Taboun 783708

Dr. Majed Abu Sa'adeh 881635

Dr. Oudman Mustafa 774024

Flem pharmacy 661912

Perdows pharmacy 778356

Al Asma pharmacy 670265

Natour's pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shamsi pharmacy 637660

DEIR:

Dr. Issa Othman (-)

Al Sharan pharmacy (278225)

ZARQA:

Dr. Fakhri Agnawi (-)

Khalil pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Police 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 77121

Highway Police 643402

Traffic Police 969390

Public Security Department 63031

Police Complaints 629800

Water and Sewerage 661176

Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 610230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalil Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6

Akhdh Maternity, J. Amn 64341/2

Fahd Amman Maternity 642362

Mathas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shamsi 66471/4

Shamsi Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Al-Mustashfi Hospital 66227/9

The Islamic, Abadi 669127/7

Al-Ahli, Abadi 664164/6

Italam, Al-Mahajreen 771101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 771101/3

Army, Marjeh 89161/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602409/9

Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

Al-Hilam Modern Hospital (09)990990

DEIR:

Deir Bessan Hospital (02)27555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)27275

Be Al-Natous Hospital (02)47100

AQABA:

Palestine Hosp Hospital (03)914111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

Time	From	Flight
05:30	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)	6530
06:30	Bahrain (RJ)	6530
07:30	Aqaba (RJ)	6530
08:45	Abu Dhabi (RJ)	6530
09:00	Muscat, Dubai (RJ)	6530
10:00	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)	6530
11:00	Vizna (RJ)	6530
12:30	London (RJ)	6530
13:00	New York (RJ)	6530
13:45	Frankfurt (RJ)	6530
15:15	Belgrade (RJ)	6530
16:30	Tripoli (RJ)	6530
17:00	Vizna (RJ)	6530
18:30	Madrid (RJ)	6530
21:00	New York, Montreal (RJ)	6530
21:30	Montreal (RJ)	6530

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

Time	From	Flight
12:30	Cairo (MS)	6530

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

Time	To	Flight
06:15	Aqaba (RJ)	6530
07:15	Braşov, London (RJ)	6530
08:15	Belgrade (RJ)	6530
09:15	Vizna (RJ)	6530
10:15	Tripoli (RJ)	6530
11:15	New York (RJ)	6530
12:15	London (RJ)	6530
13:15	Geneva, Paris (RJ)	6530
14:15	Frankfurt (RJ)	6530
15:15	Cairo (RJ)	6530
16:15	Madrid (RJ)	6530
17:15	Larnaca (RJ)	6530
18:15	Jeddah (RJ)	6530
19:15	Abu Dhabi (RJ)	6530
20:15	Damascus (RJ)	6530
21:15	Dubai (RJ)	6530
21:30	Bahrain (RJ)	6530

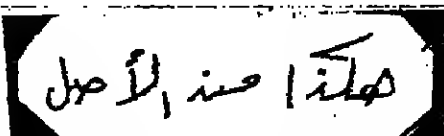
Other Flights (Terminal 2)

Time	To	Flight
14:45	Cairo (MS)	6530
15:00	Moscow (SV)	6530

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple	620 / 530
Apricot	700 / 600
Banana	520 / 430
Banana (Mikammar)	450 / 350
Beet	420 / 320
Cabbage	140 / 100
Cauliflower	280 / 220
Cucumbers (large)	140 / 100
Cucumbers (small)	280 / 220
Eggplant	220 / 150
Garlic	850 / 750
Grapes	700 / 600
Green peas	300 / 250
Lemon (green)	350 / 280
Lemon (yellow)	400 / 350
Macrow (large)	200 / 150
Macrow (small)	400 / 300
Onion	700 / 600
Onion (dry)	220 / 180
Orange	400 / 350
Peaches	800 / 650
Plum	400 / 350
Pepper (hot)	240 / 180
Pepper (sweet)	350 / 280
Potato	520 / 280
Sage	500 / 300
Sweet melon	600 / 500
Tomatoes	160 / 120
Watermelon	160 / 120



126 new pharmacies to be opened in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Health Ministry has issued licences for 126 new pharmacies in Jordan to boost drug store services to an increasing population and the ministry believes that the extra number of pharmacies will contribute to reducing the number of unemployed pharmacists, according to Nayef Hamarneh, Director of the Ministry's Pharmacy and Medicine Control Department.

The 126 pharmacies have been opened in various provinces and population centres in the urban and rural regions. Many of these pharmacies operate 24 hours a day, Mr. Hamarneh said.

Mr. Hamarneh added that a large number of those obtaining licences to start pharmacies came from the Gulf states. Mr. Hamarneh described the present medical situation in Jordan as excellent despite the hardships resulting from the Gulf crisis.

The government has made sure that all types of medicines are available on the market by maintaining constant control over the market, Mr. Hamarneh said. All

types of medicines, local or imported, undergo strict tests to ensure that they conform to international standards and no type of medicine is allowed on the market unless it has received clearance, he said.

The Health Ministry's laboratories conduct tests on almost 30 types of medicines, medical materials, medical equipment and medicines manufactured in Jordan and abroad on a daily basis, Mr. Hamarneh said.

Referring to the prices of medicine, he said they are all fixed by a Health Ministry committee which also fixes the price of children's food and other pharmaceutical preparations.

In addition, he said, his department maintains constant control over the prices of medicine and takes charge of providing various clinics and health centres with their needs.

According to Mr. Hamarneh's estimates, the Jordanian market has at least 4,000 types of registered medicines provided by the local pharmaceutical plants or imported from abroad.

Ministry, community colleges reach agreement on tuition fees

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Higher Education has reached agreement with private community colleges in Jordan on fixing tuition fees at their various branches and for different specialisations in the 1991-92 academic year, according to an announcement by the director of the ministry's Community Colleges Department, Fayez Al Rabieh.

A credit hour in the academic, social, educational, administration and business and financial fields will cost a minimum of JD 5, according to Mr. Rabieh. He said that credit hours for the engineering and medical professions as well as computer science will cost a minimum of JD 12.

All community colleges have pledged to abide by the agreement and also to create a special fund to help needy students. But, he said, special criteria will have to be worked out to determine which needy groups would be eligible for such assistance

from the fund. Mr. Rabieh said that the community colleges have consented to define the sums which they would allocate for these funds on their own contributions for this project.

According to Mr. Rabieh, the agreement would be applicable only to those joining in the new academic year. He warned that the ministry would strictly monitor the community colleges' adherence to the agreement.

The agreement was announced one day after the announcement that the number of students to be accepted at Jordanian universities for the new academic year would be 9,115. The announcement, made by the Council of Higher Education which is associated with the Ministry of Higher Education, noted that the total number of students applying for seats in the universities reached 16,861.

Geneva organisation to provide humanitarian aid to Palestinians

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Geneva-based World Organisation for the Child (WOC) is planning to provide educational and humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people following a tour of the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip by Eugen Mueller, the organisation's president.

Following his return to Amman from the occupied territories, Mr. Mueller said that he met with officials from the Jordanian and Palestinian Red Crescent societies and offered to provide hospitals in Jordan and the Israeli-occupied lands with beds and medical equipment.

Officials told Mr. Mueller that they prefer to install beds and equipment in the hospitals of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which are in urgent need of them. Mr. Mueller said that he plans to offer financial assistance to Palestinian students in the occupied lands to enable them to pursue their studies.

In the West Bank, Mr. Mueller visited a number of hospitals and realised their need of beds and medical equipment. He said he would take up this matter in his talks with the WOC's headquarters in Geneva in a bid to obtain assistance for purchasing 100 beds and other equipment for West Bank and Gaza hospitals.

According to Mr. Mueller, his organisation, which was established in 1985, aims primarily to provide education and health services to children in their own communities.

Lately, the WOC has focused

its attention on the occupied territories after having given attention to the needy communities in Haiti and Africa.

The WOC is concerned with alleviating the sufferings of the Palestinian people, which Mr. Mueller said he had come to realise during his tour in the occupied territories.

The WOC, he said, groups volunteer doctors, university professors, engineers and prominent personalities from Switzerland and other European countries. According to Mr. Mueller, the WOC is an international independent non-governmental, non-political and non-denominational association.

The State Council of Geneva has recognised the WOC as a public welfare organisation and grants it all privileges, Mr. Mueller added. He said that the WOC chooses its members on the basis of their specialised knowledge and skills to offer services free of charge.

These members, he said, are chosen without distinction to nationality, sex, age, race, language, religion, political or social background.

The WOC, he added, grants scholarships and provides well-structured and efficient schools and children's organisations with textbooks, educational material and school equipment.

It also provides professional teachers who are appointed to develop and manage vocational training schools with appropriate training courses.



CHILDREN'S THEATRE — Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday attended a ceremony held at the conclusion of a course entitled "Creative Drama for Children" organised by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's "Theatre in Education" project. The project's director, Lina Al Tal, delivered an address in which she briefed the audience on the establishment of the project and outlined its objectives, which aim at developing the educational process and organising courses for school teachers to teach them the main aspects of using drama in education. The aim of the course, Ms. Tal said, was to get familiarised with the

artistic talents of children in order to develop them and to create an awareness of the educational importance of theatre in developing the children's verbal skills and stimulating their imagination. Ms. Tal reviewed the subjects which were discussed in the 45-day course. Children who participated in the course, between six and 11 years old, presented some of the activities of the course, which included a short play composed, directed and performed by children. The ceremony was attended by Minister of Education Eid Al Dahiyat, the ministry's secretary general, Munther Al Masri and several invited guests.

Local groups agree to help expatriates, international organisations slow to respond

AMMAN (J.T.) — Humanitarian and voluntary organisations operating in Jordan have agreed to provide urgent assistance to needy Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates in response to appeals made by the government but help from international organisations will be needed in the second stage of a plan to help settle the displaced people, according to Ali Attia, United Nations resident representative in Jordan.

On Aug. 21, representatives of the various independent and humanitarian organisations in Jordan met in Amman and decided on an urgent plan to provide assistance to the needy expatriates as initial step to help Jordan implement the first phase of the plan, which entails providing care to the needy, said Dr. Attia in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

In implementing the second phase of the plan, which involves settling socio-economic activities and services for them, the Kingdom will be in need of urgent assist-

ance from world organisations, Dr. Attia said.

Jordan in the second phase of the plan will need contributions from donor countries which maintain close ties with Jordan, Dr. Attia said.

He said that the Jordanian government would be in need of a strategic plan and would have to exert efforts in order to prompt such assistance from countries of the world, drawing attention to the serious responsibility which the Kingdom has been shouldering so far in dealing with the displaced expatriates.

Dr. Attia said that the various humanitarian organisations and international agencies are now cooperating with the government sponsored Expatriates Welfare Committee in the course of preparing studies and drawing up plans designed to achieve the aspired objectives.

Dr. Attia said that the various organisations in question are providing all the assistance they can to help Jordan tackle socio-

economic issues resulting from the return of huge numbers of people from the Gulf states.

Dr. Attia made the statement following a meeting chaired by the Expatriates Welfare Committee Chairman Salameh Hammad to review the situation.

According to Petra, agreement was reached to work out strategic plan that would encourage world organisations and international institutions to help Jordan and to provide funds to finance income-generating projects for the returnees.

Out of a total of 400,000 Jordanians and Palestinians living in Kuwait before the Gulf crisis, nearly 300,000 have now returned to Jordan and the country's various ministries and departments have been striving to provide basic services to them.

Mr. Hammad, who is also secretary general of the Ministry of Interior, has been holding a series of meetings with various organisations to coordinate help for the returnees.



Deputy Prime Minister and Transport Minister Ali Suheimat and accompanying group of ministers Monday meet with Mafrqa Governorate officials (Petra photo)

Ministers make inspection visit to Zarqa and Mafrqa governorates

ZARQA (Petra) — A group of ministers Monday made inspection tours of areas in the Zarqa and Mafrqa governorates where they met with governors, heads of municipal and village councils and prominent residents to discuss services and other matters of concern to the local community.

The team, led by Deputy Prime Minister and Transport Minister Ali Suheimat, first visited Ruseifa, where they listened to Zarqa Governor Mubammad Shobaki's briefing about services and problems encountered by the local municipality.

Among the most prominent issues is that related to the municipality's budget for 1991, which amounts to JD 1.37 million to finance various projects. According to Mr. Shobaki and the town's mayor, Mousa Al Saad, Ruseifa's population had now reached one quarter million and their demands for different services is growing all the time, they said.

Both officials called on the government to help Ruseifa establish a proper dumping site for the town's waste and to replace the old and rusty water network with a new one and to speed up work on a sewage project.

The governor and mayor both referred to questions of land ownership and the condition of streets

and demanded assistance from the concerned ministries for improvements.

In reply, Mr. Suheimat said that the Ministry of Water was doing all it can to tackle the water question, which is of concern to the whole country. He said that the Council of Ministers was giving due attention to the question of city planning and land ownership and related problems and was taking proper measures to establish a dumping site for the refuse.

Coordination in these matters, he said, is under way with other departments and the government was raising funds to carry out these projects, especially the dumping site, the minister said. In Zarqa, Mr. Suheimat and his party heard a briefing by the town mayor, Yasser Omari, about general services.

Nearly half of city's districts are badly organised, creating social

and economic problems, Mr. Omari said.

He referred to the municipality's financial difficulties and said that it was urgently in need of JD 1.5 million for appropriating land to carry out projects and offer services. The mayor urged the Ministry of Public Works to pave the main street and called on the Cities and Villages Development Bank to offer the municipality a loan to help finance badly needed services.

Mr. Suheimat's next stop was Mafrqa, where members of his party tackled a number of matters raised by the governor and heads of municipal councils.

Ministers accompanying Mr. Suheimat on the inspection tour were those of Public Works and Housing, Water and Irrigation, Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment and Social Development. They were accompanied by a group of senior officials.

Financial Committee to meet

AMMAN (Petra) — The Financial Committee at the Lower House of Parliament will hold a meeting Tuesday morning. The committee will discuss the Income Tax Temporary Law No. 4 for 1989, Arab and Foreign Investments Draft Law for 1990 and Export and Import Draft Law for 1990.

Expatriates to be allowed to open 'non-resident' accounts

AMMAN (J.T.) — The central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Monday announced its decision to allow expatriates returning to Jordan from the Gulf to maintain their foreign currencies in local banks under "non-resident" accounts in a bid to facilitate their money transfers to Jordan.

A CBJ statement said that it has circulated instructions to local banks informing them that expatriates returning from Kuwait and the Gulf states should be exempted from providing statements giving evidence of their continued residence abroad. Such statements are essential for non-Jordanians residing abroad to

open "non resident" accounts in Jordanian banks.

According to the CBJ statement, returnees would only be allowed to retain "non-resident" accounts if they had valid non-resident accounts prior to Aug. 2, 1990.

The statement said that the step was taken to facilitate the return of the expatriates' funds to Jordan, where they can be used to initiate income-generating projects.

Holders of "non-residents accounts" are allowed to maintain any amount of foreign currencies and can transfer and with-

draw money from such accounts at any time without any restrictions.

Earlier this month, the CBJ decided to allow residents of the Kingdom to raise the ceiling of their foreign exchange accounts. Under that decision, the ceiling of foreign currency accounts was raised to the equivalent of JD 500,000, up from JD 150,000.

The CBJ said that the decision was adopted in line with the positive changes that Jordan's foreign currency market witnessed during the past two years and aimed at encouraging residents to transfer their accounts held abroad to Jordanian banks.

RJ policy of overbooking flights leaves some passengers up in the air

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Travellers are complaining that Royal Jordanian (RJ) is purposely overbooking its flights, in some cases leaving passengers stranded at the airport without accommodations.

RJ Vice President Majdi Sabri, while confirming that the air carrier does overbook its flights, said this was a practice followed by most air carriers. Also, the increase in complaints can be attributed to the increased number of travellers in the region, he said.

"The problem is everyone is travelling on the same day, Thursdays usually and during the same period," he said.

One June 21 and 22, RJ flew in about 2,000 people from the Gulf, Mr. Sabri said. "Now the number is much higher. Even if we don't overbook the aircraft it would not do much difference," he said.

"We get a lot of passengers complaining to us about RJ overbooking and there is nothing we can do," said a travel agent who requested anonymity.

A passenger who also requested anonymity told the Jordan Times that RJ sells between 280 and 320 tickets for its flights. Most RJ aircraft can only accommodate 250 passengers per flight.

"They tell all the people to confirm three times including 24 hours before departure," said the passenger. "When the passengers get to the airport, all of them have confirmed tickets."

"It turns out that the people who come late get left behind," the passenger said, recalling a trip he took from New York to Amman on RJ. "Out of all the extra people (left behind), only five people were granted accommodation (in two rooms) by RJ."

Mr. Sabri, however, questioned the accuracy of the numbers provided by the passenger. "This is an exaggerated number," he said. "We never had overbooking of 70 people."

Many passengers confirm and do not show up for their scheduled flights. To overcome this, RJ has a policy of overbooking each flight by 10 per cent based

on historical trends, Mr. Sabri said.

"We take previous trends for each flight and see how many no-shows there are in that week or season and we book accordingly," he said.

While Mr. Sabri claimed that overbooking was a general policy throughout the industry, at least one travel agent disagreed. Taha Hyari, Arab Express Tours manager, said that some airlines, as a matter of policy, do not overbook their flights.

"Lufthansa, for example, often maintains a zero-zero, meaning that if there are 250 seats only 250 passengers will be booked and confirmed," he said.

The issue of overbooking is not one single problem but rather an accumulation of "heavy traffic and lack of aircraft," he said. "Many Iraqis are coming from abroad, including other people — students and the general summer rush — so that has generated a fantastic demand on seats."

All of the travel agents interviewed by the Jordan Times agreed that the problem is not necessarily RJ's, blaming sloppy travel agents and passengers who do not confirm their seats.

"What happens is that when a passenger books a seat, we (travel agents) tell them to confirm 24 hours before departure," Mr. Hyari said. "Some of them do not and are automatically cancelled."

Nevertheless, "they show up thinking they are confirmed" and blame RJ when they learn they have lost their seats, Mr. Hyari said.

Sometimes, passengers will expect the travel agent to automatically confirm their seats and become irate when they learn otherwise, Mr. Hyari added. "This is a big problem," he said.

Another practice that exacerbates the problem is that some travel agents tell their clients that they have been confirmed when actually they are not, Mr. Hyari said.

Mr. Sabri agreed, saying that "some travel agents are responsible (for the problem). There are not too many cases in Jordan but

outside agents confirm their clients when they are not confirmed."

The end result of such practices, he added, is that the passenger blames RJ and "puts us in an awkward position and imposes extra costs."

According to one travel agent, some passengers take the computer number and confirm their seats with RJ directly.

"While they are on the waiting list with us, the passenger comes back saying RJ confirmed him. Sometimes this problem can be settled but not always," said the travel agent.

"Usually passengers change their minds at the last minute," Mr. Sabri said. "Some seats become available so we do give confirmation to clients."

Passengers who confirm their seats and do not arrive at the airport in time for their flight usually lose their seats, some travel agents said.

According to the travel agents, "RJ does not accommodate them."

One travel agent, who requested anonymity, said that "I have quite a few clients who come to me saying that RJ leaves them behind literally with no accommodation and no guarantee of when their next flight would be."

Mr. Sabri disagreed, saying that RJ books them on the following flight if possible.

"We secure them on the second flight available or we re-route the passengers," he said. "We do accommodate them. We are committed to look after them."

Mr. Sabri added that RJ hopes the situation will improve next month.

"At the beginning of next month we are reducing our overbooking ratio," he said. "We are ready to bear passengers' complaints. If anyone has had a bad experience, we are ready to compensate them in terms of booking them on convenient flights."

Mr. Hyari, apparently trying to summarise the issue, said: "RJ seems to be lost between the agents' misinformation and the clients only doing half their job."

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITION

Art exhibition by Ibrahim Abul Rubb at the Royal Cultural Centre.

CONCERT

Concert by Al-Jeel Al-Jadeed folk troupe at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

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Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

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Maturity says it all

SUNDAY'S talks between His Majesty King Hussein and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat for the purpose of investigating the possibility of adopting a joint negotiating position and forming a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation for October's peace conference are indeed timely and useful. Given the rapid developments on the international scene and the virtual elimination of the Soviet Union as a world superpower, the cards are being ominously shuffled more than ever against the Arab side in any political showdown with Israel. The hopes once held for Moscow to salvage the situation for the Palestinians and redeem the negotiating strength of the Arab countries are fast dissipating. The power struggle in the Soviet Union is clearly tilting the balance in favour of Tel Aviv with Jewish emigration from that country expected to accelerate at an alarming rate. What is left for the Arab side to do is to exercise maximum self-reliance by regrouping in such a way as to optimise their bargaining strength. The proposed formation of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation has thus to be seen against the background of the so-called new international order that has its hallmark the domination of the U.S. and the rest of the industrialised countries over the rest of us.

Amman has no particular interest in advocating the formation of a joint delegation and the articulation of a joint negotiating position except to help out the Palestinians and their cause under very unfavourable conditions. This is not to mention the fact that the bonds between the Jordanians and Palestinians have been special and historic and have been cemented more than ever by their shared values and common destinies. It is high time therefore to shoulder our national responsibility by joining ranks between the two peoples as a prelude to the formation of a comprehensive joint Arab position encompassing Damascus and Cairo as well. The Arab parties can ill-afford the divisions that have plagued us for as long as we can remember. As the day of reckoning is fast approaching and the Arab parties are destined to sit with Israel on a negotiating table before the end of this year, there is little time left for the concerned Arab governments to coordinate their policy objectives.

Based on this, the Sunday talks between King Hussein and the Palestinian leader can serve as a solid step towards undertaking a genuine process to consolidate the Arab position on the Arab-Israeli conflict. There are increasing signs that the PLO leadership is putting more faith in the fundamentals of their cause rather than the modalities pertaining to the upcoming peace parity. This is indeed encouraging and should be taken as sign of political maturity. The agreed upon working committee to translate the preliminary agreements between the two sides into actions is additional evidence that Jordan and the PLO are moving irreversibly towards operating and proceeding on the same wavelength. Let us hope that at long last the Arab side is learning to put the horse before the cart instead of the other way around.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THIRD world countries had hoped that with the end of the cold war between the East and the West a new era would start and the road would be paved for justice and security everywhere, said Al Rai's Arabic daily Monday. But the Third World is appalled to see that the world has now entered a dark tunnel whose end cannot be predicted and a new fearful era in which many countries could be pitted against one another said the daily. What the world is witnessing is the downfall of the world communism which triggered a series of changes in Eastern Europe and led to the start of a civil conflict in one of the former communist countries: Yugoslavia, the paper added. It said that the world was full of troubles and regional issues which await solutions, but are left untouched by the Western world. It said that Iraq is facing starvation and intimidation, countries in Latin America continue to witness strife of every kind and countries in South East Asia are involved in continued conflicts. It is clear, said the paper, that the United States and its allies are pushing the world to a precipice and are encouraging regional conflicts to ensure their domination of the globe. The paper expressed fear that such a situation would lead to a total world chaos and violence that could go beyond control.

Sawt Al Shabab daily emphasised the need for Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation and coordination which, it said, is needed to confront the coming stage. His Majesty King Hussein, who had visited Syria and earlier held talks with the U.S. secretary of state to discuss the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict, has now met with the Palestine president in yet another attempt to pave the ground for a peaceful settlement to the Middle East question, the paper noted. The Jordanian and Palestinian leaderships have been coordinating their steps and cooperating in all aspects related to the Middle East problem with a view to contributing to the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolution 242, the paper added. Through close cooperation between Jordan and Damascus and the PLO, Arab states involved in the conflict can embark on negotiations with a greater measure of confidence in the course of implementing justice and international legitimacy, the paper noted. It said that the success of inter-Arab cooperation is badly needed at the moment as the Arab states prepare for the coming Arab-Israeli negotiations which are expected to bring about peace to this region. The paper called on Syria, Jordan and the PLO to pursue all efforts towards reaching a joint stand to achieve successful negotiations that would ensure the Arab and Palestinian peoples' rights.

View from Fourth Circle

You can buy flags and people, but not history

The prospects of convening an Arab-Israeli peace conference and the broader future of the Middle East remain delicately balanced today among the diplomatic weakness of the Arabs, the militaristic arrogance of the Israelis, and the historical hypocrisy of the Americans — in other words, little has changed in the Holy Land during the second half of this century. Several trends are clear in the region today, and all of them are sad.

The Arabs remain divided, dependent on the West, and therefore often desperate. Like the Egyptian government since 1979, many other Arab leaders seeking survival now dance for their dollars, frantically looking to stand near the seat of imperial power in Washington — to bask in the glow of Patriot and Cruise missiles, to be warmed by the heat of Stealth engines, to dance with the emperor's wife, and perhaps even politically to sleep with the emperor in the ultimate act of national degradation. In the era of "feel good, be happy" nationalism, and in the spirit of a kinder, gentler brand of national prostitution, some Arab governments and leaders foolishly try to ignore thousands of years of experience in the Middle East. They believe that identity and security can be achieved by jumping into the lap of foreign emperors, by borrowing foreign flags, or by buying the identity and allegiance that you cannot generate from your own people.

History, however, is a cruel and relentless master, demanding strict obedience to its rules. History tolerates neither sustained foreign subjugation nor the denial of people's national and human rights by their own despotic leaders. The will to be free, to live in dignity, will always triumph, as we have seen in most parts of the world in the last several years, most recently in the Soviet Union. In the Arab World, though, the quest for freedom remains checked. A few states have started making the transition to pluralistic democracy and human rights, such as Jordan, Yemen, Algeria, Egypt and Tunisia, though the speed and extent of genuine political reform remains unclear in several cases. Some Arab states have suffered intense civil strife, such as Lebanon, Sudan, Palestine and Somalia. A few in the Levant and North Africa linger under one-man military dictatorships, while most of the Gulf is locked into medieval fiefdoms adorned with Carter watches and French perfumes.

In the long term, the Arab people will surely enjoy the liberty, dignity and prosperity that are their due. In the short term, though, the situation remains muddled and confused. Due to their own recent incompetence, corruption and violent wars, most Arab governments are either fighting to subdue their own people, or are desperately seeking refuge in Washington. The extreme manifestation of the Arab dilemma is Kuwait, which in the last five years has seen five different flags fly over its soil and its national assets. In 1986, Kuwait lowered its own flag and hoisted the British and American flags over its oil tankers, in order to obtain foreign military escorts during the Iran-Iraq war. The Iraqi flag flew over Kuwait for some seven months after August 1990. Today, the Kuwait flag and the United Nations flag both share

duty, while the Kuwaiti government is pleading with Washington and London to establish military bases there.

One country. Five years. Five different flags. I am not sure of the appropriate emotional response to this fact of contemporary Arab history. It is at once sad, funny, pitiful, ridiculous and grotesque. But it remains symptomatic and symbolic of the broader malaise that threatens the Arab World. The exercise of political power, national authority, and economic control in Arab countries remain haphazard and arbitrary, and therefore the overall political climate continues to be defined by tension and instability. Violence, repression, frustration and religious revival define most Arab countries, while tentative democratic transformation defines a few. The Gulf countries have started to experience their own indigenous demands for democratic reform, which will come at a slower pace than it has in some of the northern tier poor Arab states.

In such a regional context, flags take on a new meaning. They flow smoothly into the materialistic political currents of the day, assuming aspects of cars, homes and clothes — mere commodities to be bought and sold, temporary identities to be rented or purchased, whimsical symbols to be waved about.

Kuwait also offers the brutal and sick spectacle of a government trying to buy back its own people, offering them \$70,000 each as compensation for their suffering in the Gulf war if they return home. But why should we be surprised, in this age and this place where everything is for sale, where every man and woman has his or her price, where flags, armies, countries and people are rented, leased and purchased for cash? If desperate Arab governments agreed to pay over \$30 billion to rent the American and British armies, why should they not also pay to rent their own people, and to secure the allegiance of their own kin?

The Kurds, meanwhile, slowly drift out of the news, for they have come down from the mountains, and out of the West's political sight. Remember Zakho and Dohuk? Those are now far away places, long ago political times. The Kurds allowed themselves to be used as chess pieces by the European powers in 1920, and lost — and they repeat the agony again today. But they remain players in the game of Middle Eastern nationhood.

This is the regional and international context in which we hear talk of Arab-Israeli peace negotiations. The historical context cannot be ignored, for only when the authenticity of indigenous national identity is accepted can stable states reign in the region. Neither can one ignore the present ignominy of Arab countries either stultifying their people through state violence or trying to buy them with money. In this context, peace prospects in Palestine appear more complex than simply arranging a new safari for James Baker.

I am all for negotiations. I don't think the Palestinians and the PLO should allow themselves to get stuck on procedural issues whose symbolism is exaggerated because of our Arab political

weakness. The logic of Palestinian and Arab political trends of the last 25 years, since the 1967 defeat, has been to accept to negotiate and coexist with Israel if the Palestinians can exercise their right of national self-determination — in other words, to their right of national self-determination — in other words, to partition Palestine into Jewish and Arab states. If a peace conference can achieve this goal, then a peace conference is a good thing, and all Arabs should support it. The symbolism of good thing, and all Arabs should support it. The symbolism of good thing, and all Arabs should support it. The symbolism of good thing, and all Arabs should support it.

A peace conference might put Israel under such intense international pressure that it is forced to withdraw from the occupied territories and accept the principle of Palestinian self-determination. Or, it might achieve nothing. It is the obligation of this generation of Palestinian and Arab leaders to call the Israeli-American bluff once and for all by seeing what can be achieved at a peace conference. The long-term consequences are the same if we go to a conference and fail, or if we refuse to join the conference in the first place. Faced with such a choice, I suspect we are better off attending the conference, and demanding from the world the same standards of political morality and national rights that are being applied these days elsewhere on earth.

What will happen to the Arabs at a peace conference? Will George Bush threaten us with Cruise missiles? We just saw in Moscow that self-confident and fearless people will always triumph over weaponry in the hands of shameful men. We should go to a conference with dignity and certitude, demanding and working for Arab legal rights that are already enshrined in a host of U.N. resolutions. If Israel and the United States choose to put their faith in militarism, they will only generate more defiance and fearlessness from the Arabs, and assure continued turmoil in the Middle East.

If nothing is achieved, and the conference breaks down, then the region will resume its merry slide to more violence and suffering. The fact remains that peace, justice and stability in Palestine cannot be separated from the rest of the region, and the rest of the region today is characterised by severe confusion and human degradation. The most important thing for the Arabs to do in this situation is simply to remain calm in the face of contemporary madness, to remain confident in the rules of history, and to remain steady in our political and diplomatic course.

We will always suffer from foreign emperors and local tyrants to an extent, but we will also prevail over them both in the end. That's what I understand by the statements by George Bush and James Baker to the effect that democracy and the people's will to be free shall always triumph. They were talking about the Soviet Union. I'm talking about the Arab World. And we're both talking about the truths of history.

Gorbachev shatters Kremlin tradition by quitting party post

By Alan Cooperman
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Since Josef Stalin, the leader of the Communist Party has always been the strongman of the Soviet Union. By resigning as party chief Saturday, Mikhail Gorbachev shattered that tradition.

The only post-war politician to try to run the country without holding the top party post, Georgy Malenkov, was swiftly undermined by Nikita Khrushchev and drummed out of the leadership in 1957.

Mr. Gorbachev appears to have heeded Malenkov's lesson: Before quitting as the party's general secretary, he gradually stripped the communists of authority and built up the independent post of president.

In a final blow Saturday, he nationalised the party's property, called for the dissolution of its policy-making central committee and banned party cells in the armed forces, KGB and police.

"I believe that democratic-minded communists... will stand up for the creation on a new basis of a party capable of joining in the ongoing radical democratic transformations," he said in a statement read on television.

It was unclear whether Mr. Gorbachev was suggesting an entirely new party, or a drastically reorganised and humbled one.

In either case, the demise of the monolithic Communist Party that ruled the country for seven decades appeared to be at hand.

Mr. Gorbachev was the party's seventh leader. The first was Vladimir Lenin, who created the Bolshevik — or majority — faction of the Russian Social Democratic Party that seized power in the 1917 revolution.

Lenin formed the party into a secretive, elite organisation during the years of underground struggle against Tsarist rule that preceded the revolution, and the civil war that followed.

In 1918, it was renamed the all-Russian communist party. Its

ideology wavered — during the "new economic policy" from 1921 to 1928, private business was encouraged — but its highly-centralised, conspiratorial nature did not.

Lenin died in 1924 and during a fierce struggle, power was seized by Stalin, who outmanoeuvred other contenders by using his post as party first secretary. His main rival, Leon Trotsky, tried to exercise power through government.

Stalin built up the power of the party chief and wielded it ruthlessly to industrialise the country, force peasants onto collective farms and exterminate his enemies, both real and imagined.

After Stalin's death in 1953, Khrushchev shared power in a "collective leadership" with Malenkov, who was prime minister. But again, control over the party apparatus proved too great an advantage.

In 1955, Malenkov was forced to confess to political mistakes, and in 1957 he was expelled from the central committee as a member of the so-called "anti-party" group.

Khrushchev halted some of the worst excesses of Stalin's reign of terror before being toppled by a palace coup, much like the one that briefly ousted Gorbachev last week. He was replaced as party leader in 1964 by Leonid Brezhnev.

Alexei Kosygin, who was prime minister in the collective leadership, was initially thought by Western analysts to wield top power. But Brezhnev used the party to gain control.

Brezhnev created a true "patronage" in which apparatchiks enjoyed long tenure in their posts and often passed their privileges onto their children. He himself remained in power even as a doddering old man with slurred speech, and died in office in 1982.

Brezhnev was succeeded in rapid fashion by two other sickly members of the ruling politburo, Konstantin Chernenko and Mr. Gorbachev's political patron, Yuri Andropov.

Mr. Gorbachev became general secretary after Andropov's death in 1985. Three years later, he took the ceremonial post of president as well. Then, as his reforms cut into the power and prestige of the party, he persuaded the parliament to create a powerful new presidency and elect him to the post last year.

Under Mr. Gorbachev, the party surrendered its constitutional monopoly on power and allowed the formation of other political parties. Glasnost, or openness, led to revelations about party misdeeds that undercut its prestige.

Party membership plummeted more than 20 per cent in the past 18 months, and the defectors included leading reformers such as Alexander Yakovlev and Eduard Shevardnadze.

For more than a year, there had been speculation that Mr. Gorbachev would leave his party post. But he repeatedly denied any plans to quit and fought off attempts by more orthodox communists to remove him as head of the 15-million member organisation which, until last month, had tentacles of power in every school, office and factory in the land.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin outlawed party cells in the workplace throughout the Russian Federation on July 20. Mr. Gorbachev objected and said he would reverse the decree, but never did.

The push that finally led Mr. Gorbachev to quit as general secretary was the failed coup by Vice President Gennady Yanayev and Mr. Gorbachev's top ministers, apparently with the support of top party officials.

But as the son and grandson of devoted communists, the resignation was not easy.

"Nobody has a moral right to blame all communists indiscriminately, and I, as president, consider it my duty to defend them as citizens from unsubstantiated accusations," he said in his resignation statement.

The 15 Soviet republics and how they stand on independence

MOSCOW (R) — This is a brief description of the 15 Soviet republics and their stance towards independence:

Eight were preparing to sign President Mikhail Gorbachev's union treaty, establishing a looser federation and transferring considerable powers from the Kremlin to republican leaders, when the coup was staged on Monday.

The Ukraine had put off discussion till September, while six smaller republics had refused to sign the treaty.

Russian Federation (capital Moscow) is by far the largest of the republics and the economic and industrial heart of the Soviet Union. Until recently radical leader Boris Yeltsin, focus of resistance to the failed coup, said he wanted greater autonomy for his republic while keeping it in the Soviet Union.

But Mr. Yeltsin, who has virtually taken effective power from Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev, on Saturday expanded his authority with a string of unilateral decrees taking control of huge chunks of Soviet government. He insists on a complete reworking of the union treaty.

He has signed cooperation agreements with many other republics and on Saturday recognised the independence of Latvia and Estonia, moves which could hasten the disintegration of the Soviet Union in its current form.

Ukraine (capital Kiev) is the second most influential republic. Its parliament declared full independence on Saturday, subject to a referendum on December 1. The move is thought to have a good chance of approval by the 50 million population, which increasingly favours national independence.

Communist President Leonid Kravchuk, under pressure from nationalists, wanted the signing of the union treaty to be delayed until his parliament had ratified the republic's sovereignty declaration made earlier this year.

Kazakhstan (capital Almaty), was for decades a massive conservative cotton-producing

southern republic. But under President Nursultan Nazarbayev, one of the rising stars on the Soviet political scene, the republic has declared sovereignty and banned controversial nuclear tests at the Semipalatinsk testing ground. Nazarbayev wants to keep the republic in the Soviet Union but now insists the union treaty be reworked.

Byelorussia (capital Minsk) has traditionally been one of the most conservative republics with an independence movement still in its infancy. But communist President Nikolai Dementel, who made few pronouncements on the union treaty, resigned on Sunday after criticism he had not opposed the coup. The republic has a well-developed technological and agricultural base.

Lithuania (capital Vilnius) is at the forefront of those demanding independence. The small agricultural Baltic republic, led by nationalist President Vytautas Landsbergis, was the first to declare full, immediate independence last year. Although the declaration was suspended after a crippling economic Kremlin blockade, it now seems likely to be reactivated.

Latvia (capital Riga) another Baltic republic, declared full, immediate independence during the coup. The agricultural republic, led by President Anatolijs Gorbunovs, had previously preferred a step-by-step approach to breaking with Moscow.

Estonia (capital Tallinn) the third Baltic republic, has chosen exactly the same path, also declaring independence last week. The tiny republic, also dependent on agriculture, is led by President Arnold Ruutel.

Moldova (capital Kishinev) adjoining Romania, has declared sovereignty and is refusing to sign the union treaty. Led by President Mircea Snegur, the republic — best known for its light industry and wine-growing — has yet to declare independence. But Bucharest Radio on Sunday said the parliament would do so on

Tuesday.

Georgia (capital Tbilisi) declared full independence earlier this year under the leadership of nationalist President Zviad Gamsakhurdia. The authorities in the Transcaucasian republic, which produces wine and fruit, have annulled the autonomous status of several ethnic regions which want to stay in the Soviet Union.

Armenia (capital Yerevan) is determined to be the first to secede legally from the Soviet Union following the convoluted five-year path set down by the national constitution. President Levon Ter-Petrosyan says this path would give Moscow no reason to clamp down on the republic, reliant on fruit and wine production and light industry.

Azerbaijan (capital Baku) wants more freedom under the union treaty but has made few statements so far about outright independence. Authorities under President Ayaz Muttalibov — the only republican leader who openly backed the abortive coup — have cracked down hard on the growing nationalist movement. The republic is a major oil producer.

The four Central Asian republics at the time of the coup were still firmly in the hands of their republican communist parties. In a March referendum on the future of the Soviet Union all four recorded massive majorities in favour of keeping the country together in its present form.

Uzbekistan (capital Tashkent) is the largest of four. President Ismail Karimov is leading protests about the massive damage done by decades of intensive cotton-growing.

Turkmenia (capital Ashkhabad) is a quiet desert backwater led by President Saparmurad Niyazov.

Kyrgyzstan, formerly Kirghizia, capital Bishkek, formerly Frunze, is led by President Askar Akayev.

Tajikistan (capital Dushanbe) is a mountainous republic led by President Kakhkar Makhamov.

Silayev takes over Soviet economy

MOSCOW (R) — Ivan Silayev, named by President Mikhail Gorbachev to take charge of the Soviet economy, is a prominent reformer who believes the country must lose its "socialist virginity" and move fast towards a free market.

As prime minister of Boris Yeltsin's Russian Republic from June 1990, Mr. Silayev led moves to wrest power over its vast natural resources from the Kremlin and loosen state control over the crisis-ridden economy.

On Saturday Mr. Gorbachev named him to head a new admin-

istration to run the Soviet economy — effectively acting Soviet prime minister — with radical economist Grigory Yavlinsky as one of three deputies.

The silver-haired Silayev was constantly at Yeltsin's side as the Russian president marshalled resistance to last week's attempted coup and thwarted the attempt by communist hardliners to oust Mikhail Gorbachev as Soviet leader.

Silayev, 60, was among senior Russian officials who flew on Wednesday to Crimea, where Mr. Gorbachev had been held under

house arrest for three days, and brought him back to Moscow once he was reinstated in office.

As Russian premier, during what he called "the most difficult and dynamic year of my life," Mr. Silayev drew up a programme to privatise small industries and agriculture, transform big state concerns into joint-stock companies, help entrepreneurs by cutting taxes and duties, stabilise the rouble and combat inflation.

"For too long we preserved our

Socialist virginity and saw each real step towards the market as an unsavoury retreat to practices established throughout the world from Shanghai to New York," he said when presenting the plan last March.

"We believe there should be an energetic transition to a market economy in a very short time."

Mr. Silayev is also a co-founder, with prominent liberals including former Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and ex-Gorbachev aide Alexander Yakovlev, of a new centrist

movement intended to challenge the Communist Party for power.

As he takes charge of the Soviet economy, he faces a series of huge challenges: reviving production which has collapsed amid chaos and worker unrest, taming inflation, mending the chronically inefficient production system and putting basic consumer goods onto empty shop shelves.

Born on October 21, 1930, in a village near Gorky, southeast of Moscow, Mr. Silayev trained as an engineer and mechanic, joined the Communist Party in 1959 and went on to become director of the

Gorky Aviation Factory in 1971.

From 1974 he served as a deputy aviation industry minister, holding a minor ministerial portfolio from 1980 to 1981 before returning the same year to head the Aviation Ministry.

From 1985 to 1990 he was a Soviet deputy prime minister. He holds a series of prestigious awards including hero of socialist labour and two orders of Lenin.

He has a wife, Tamara, and two sons. He lists his hobby as playing tennis, the favourite game of his boss Boris Yeltsin.

Two lessons from Palestine

By Andrew P. Jones

It was in the offices of a travel agency here in Amman, that I learned one of two lessons last week. Both involved the political reality of the Middle East region. I had stated to the travel agent that I was going to Israel. The agent looked me in the eye and said, "you mean Palestine."

The second lesson involved entry into Palestine that was denied me by Israeli immigration officials last Friday morning, August 23, 1991. It all came after a skull capped official asked me why I was coming into the country; what I intended to do there; how much time I was going to spend, and so forth.

After ordering me to be seated, he made at least two dozen phone calls before the verdict came down. I was able to count the number of calls because he picked up my passport each time he spoke about me over the phone.

While I waited, seated in the small room where only Arabs were told to remain, I was able to think over some of what I had seen earlier. First I was shocked at how close the opposing forces are to each other. The Jordan River at the King Hussein (Allenby) Bridge is really no river at all, just a deep creek with fast running green water, minefields on either side. The bridge, an old, creaky wooden structure, is itself less than 50 meters long. The bus ride across takes less than 10 seconds literally.

Secondly, soldiers on the Israeli side, curiously American looking with sandy brown hair and American made weapons, order all passengers off the bus and scrutinize them, guns ready at all times. This includes everyone, even children and myself, a black American.

Thirdly, once inside the immigration building, all Europeans are waved through after a brief chat with the same customs official who would later deliver to me the negative news. Before getting to him two young female soldiers check passports. They too have that American look which experienced international travelers know all too well. It would be impossible to distinguish these green clad girls from their student counterparts in the United States, except of course for the military uniforms.

By the way, these are the same girls; I say girls because they look quite young no more than 17 years old, who take all Arab women into private rooms for strip searching. The same thing happens to all Arab males, men and boys, accompanied by a male soldier.

In the last three years, I have visited 38 countries, writing and producing documentaries and news reports for television in the United States, Britain, Canada and Germany. As I also told the Israeli officials, I

am a member of the faculty of the School of Journalism at Northeastern University in Boston.

This was supposed to be my first trip to Palestine. I was to produce two stories for Black Entertainment Television (BET) News based in Washington, D.C. One story was to be on Falashas, the Ethiopians recently relocated to Israel. The other was to be on a group of Black Jews from America who immigrated to Palestine, without invitation from the Israelis, about a decade ago from Chicago. I was to compare the plight of the two groups, take some video, do some interviews and return to Amman for travel elsewhere.

But I never made it. As I stated earlier, I was refused entry into the country. One of two reasons given was that I did not have enough money to support myself during the time I intended to stay, less than a week. The other reason was that I lacked a return ticket to the United States. No other reasons were given.

What the Israelis did not know I knew was that there was a British woman, a friend of mine in the queue ahead of me. She had even less money than me and no return ticket either. She was allowed into Palestine. I was not.

At first I thought I had been refused entry because of my previous trips to Iraq. I had spent two months in Iraq earlier this summer filming the effects of sanctions and continued political psychological warfare against the Iraqi people. However, I have since learned that many others with Iraqi visas stamped in their passports have made the trip back and forth between Jordan and the West Bank with no problems.

I arrived back at my hotel in the afternoon, tired after having to get up to catch a 6:30 a.m. JETT bus. There I was greeted with the news that there had been riots the week before between blacks and Hassidic Jews in Brooklyn in the United States. According to news reports, a Jew on a motorcycle killed a young black boy. The black community, incensed that there was no prosecution of what they perceived as homicide, erupted and the rumble started.

I suspect the Israelis were aware of the circumstances in Brooklyn, although I certainly wasn't at the time. I'm staying in a hotel storage room and don't have a television to watch the news. No hotel rooms are available in Amman because of the sudden influx of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis escaping summer heat, sanctions and the July 25 bombing deadline set by Bush. Many thousands are stranded in Jordan having been denied

The writer is assistant professor at the School of Journalism at Northeastern University, Boston, U.S.

Constitution Bloc chief Hindawi says parliamentary group is after national unity

CONSIDERED one of Jordan's most experienced politicians, Thouqan Al Hindawi was born in 1927 in the village of N'aymeh near the northern city of Irbid. As a young student, he used to walk 20 kilometres to his school in Irbid city, from which he graduated at the top of his class. This qualified him to win a scholarship to study at the Arab College in Jerusalem, where he received the Palestinian Matriculation Certificate and the Intermediate Certificate awarded at the time from the University of London. He later left for Cairo on scholarship and received a B.A. degree in Sociology and History.

Upon his return to Amman Mr. Hindawi worked as a teacher until he was awarded another scholarship in 1955 to study for a Master's degree in education in the U.S. Since then, he has worked as teacher, headmaster, inspector at the Ministry of Education, cultural attaché in Cairo, undersecretary of the Information Ministry, minister of information, minister of education, ambassador to Kuwait and Egypt, deputy premier and minister of education, and chief of the Royal Court.

Mr. Hindawi resigned from his last post in 1989 to run in the country's first parliamentary elections in 22 years. He was one of ten MPs elected to represent Irbid. He is married with two sons and a daughter.

Question: It has been two years since the election of this Parliament, and people seem to be divided on the MPs' performance. How do you evaluate their performance to date?

Answer: If we want to evaluate the House's performance from an unbiased position, the result would be a mixture of positives and negatives. You set the region, Jordan included, passed through a political phase during which the absence of democracy and public freedoms led to a freeze in related activities, such as Parliament. Yet I can say the House reacted to this new stage with great responsibility in coping with the advent of democracy, the general situation in the country, and the needs of the people.

On the legislative front, I think we are extremely successful in passing laws submitted by the government or in encouraging the government to work on other specific laws. However, the political part, which is mainly to watch over the government and encourage it to adopt specific policies, was not so successful. Q: A few days ago you gave confidence to the new government, although you said it was

not a national unity government. Did you see other positive elements in it?

A: Most of the Constitution Bloc, of which I am a member, voted for the government after a comprehensive evaluation of the situation in the country and current domestic and international developments. We knew in advance that the Muslim Brotherhood had decided to withhold confidence; if we joined them the government would have fallen and this would mean that by tradition, the House would be dissolved. We experienced that in 1963, when the government of Samir Al Rifai failed a vote of confidence. We did not want to see this happening because it would mean shattering the country's national unity and endangering national security, particularly in the face of Israeli threats, which we now take very seriously in the absence of superpower balance.

Israel will not hesitate to exploit the situation to create chaos in Jordan, and being protected by the only superpower (the U.S.) means that Israel would get away with it, especially in the Security Council. Therefore, we voted in favour



Thouqan Al Hindawi

to protect national unity, rather than to express our admiration of the government, which we think was below our expectations.

Q: Why was the Constitution Bloc formed, and was its timing before the vote pre-arranged or a pure coincidence?

A: I think we were largely misunderstood. Members of the bloc had been discussing the idea since the election of the House. The aim was to create a political force within the House to activate the democratic process, particularly that there exists only one organised bloc, the Muslim Brotherhood, which acts from a religious perspective. Other blocs are much smaller and were formed hastily following the election of the House. So the process

was going on for a long time and we thought that the best time for launching the bloc was ahead of the confidence vote.

Q: Would this be a nucleus for a larger political organisation in the future, a political party for example?

A: Yes. We have discussed the issue and now we see that the survival, expansion and enlargement of this bloc should continue even after the end of this House's term. The next few weeks will witness an increase in our number in the house, which now totals 13 MPs.

Q: What does the bloc stand

for? A: We are a group of public servants guided by realistic, centrist and practical thought. As our name implies, we are guided by the constitution, and work for keeping its spirit alive. This explains why we voted for the government.

Q: Do you think the government's winning a small majority in the confidence vote would motivate it to work harder, or would be a hindrance to it?

A: Let me put it this way. If I were the prime minister I would reconsider my cabinet's make-up and work harder to improve its image in the House, and convince those who voted against that this was a government worthy of confidence.

Q: The region is passing through a decisive stage, amidst a split over U.S. peace efforts and the best means to achieve a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East. What do you think about this issue?

A: I personally believe in realism. If applied to the Middle East, realism means three things. First, there is a Palestinian people that must regain its rights, including the establishment of its state in its national soil. Second, no country should replace the Palestinians in determining their rights and fate. The Palestinian people chose the PLO as their sole and legitimate representative, thus neither Jordan nor any other Arab country can replace it. We can help the PLO or act as an umbrella for it if it so asks, but not replace it. Third, there is an international legitimacy decided by international consensus, and scores of U.N. resolutions that need to be applied, including 242 and 338 which stipulate the inadmissibility of acquiring land by force. Any misconsideration of those three realities means that we will be chasing a mirage, and not reaching real solutions.

This article appeared in Issues and Perspectives, the bi-monthly newsletter published by the Jordan Information Bureau in Washington.

Gorbachev accepts blame for coup

(Continued from page 1)

different organisation. Many of its functions will be handed over to other organisations and some will be simply annulled.

Also facing likely reconstruction now are the borders and central power structure of the Soviet Union.

Mr. Yeltsin last week demanded Mr. Gorbachev's union treaty draft be thrown out and a new version written to hand even more power to the 15 republics. Nikolai Petrakov, a radical economist and former Gorbachev adviser, said that reformers in the Supreme Soviet likely would try to do that.

Signalling an apparent fundamental shift in his position last week's upheaval, Mr. Gorbachev made no reference to the Soviet constitution, which says any republic seeking to break away must follow a five-year secession process.

Previously, Mr. Gorbachev had insisted the Baltic republics must abide by the constitution, which they do not recognise.

Mr. Gorbachev, his authority under relentless attack from Mr. Yeltsin, said all obstacles to a market economy represented by the old structures must be swept away.

"We have to accelerate the creation of necessary market institutions," he said.

The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations said Monday the Soviet seat

at the U.N. Security Council could be relinquished to Russia, and other Soviet republics may soon seek to join the world organisation.

Ambassador Thomas Pickering said, however, the question of future representation on the 15-member council should be decided in Moscow.

"We would like to see the issue resolved on the basis of mutual agreement," Mr. Pickering told reporters in India's capital. The Soviet Union is one of the five permanent members of the council, along with the United States, China, France and Britain.

He said the 159-member United Nations could be expanded to include Soviet republics that gain independence, but "we want to study how much independence they have."

The Ukraine and Byelorussia already are U.N. members under a unique arrangement established when the Soviet Union was afraid it would be outnumbered by the West in the world body. Although they are full U.N. members, in the past Ukrainian and Byelorussian delegates have taken their cues from Moscow.

The president of the second-biggest Soviet Republic, Kazakhstan, said Monday the Soviet Union was finished as a federation and could survive only as a confederation of independent states.

Nursultan Nazarbayev told the Soviet parliament there was no place for a central parliament or cabinet of ministers in the future "free union of sovereign republics."

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Soviet takes women's 800m gold at World Championships

TOKYO (Agencies) — Lilia Nurutdinova of the Soviet Union snatched the gold medal from Cuban favourite Ana Quirot in a tight finish to the women's 800 metres at the World Athletics Championships Monday.

The 27-year-old European bronze medalist won a four-woman battle on the final straight, powering past Quirot and holding off the challenges of Romanian Ella Kovacs and Maria Mutola of Mozambique.

Quirot, who has dominated the event in recent years without winning a major gold, settled for silver and Kovacs fell over the finish line to get the bronze.

African champion Mutola stumbled, tripped and pushed Nurutdinova to the ground as she raised her arms to celebrate her victory.

Nurutdinova won in one minute 57.50 seconds with Quirot just 0.05 seconds behind and Kovacs finishing in 1:57.58.

Mutola set a world junior record of 1:57.63 as the first four finished within 0.13 seconds of each other.

Kenny Harrison of the United States won the men's triple jump with his second effort of 17.78 metres, holding off European champion Leonid Voloshin of the Soviet Union by just three centimetres.

American Mike Conley took the bronze medal with 17.62 metres.

An elated Harrison did a two-footed leap on the victory podium to celebrate his win.

Tatyana Dorovskikh made it a second Soviet victory on the track, winning the women's 3,000 metres with a perfectly judged race.

Dorovskikh, reigning world and Olympic champion under the name of Samolenko, tailed compatriot Elena Romanova round the final bend before bursting past to defend her title.

The 30-year-old sports teacher, who returned to the track this season after having a baby, was a double gold medalist at 1,500 and 3,000 metres in Rome four years ago.

Romanova took the silver and Susan Sirma of Kenya the bronze.

Favourite Yvonne Murray of Britain took over the lead from Sirma on the bell but she was unable to sustain the pace and the two Soviet runners surged past her on the back straight.

The European champion faded badly on the final straight and finished only 10th.

Dorovskikh won in eight minutes 35.62 seconds, 0.4 seconds ahead of European silver medalist Romanova.

Finland pulled off a double in the men's javelin, won by Kimmo Kinnunen from world record holder Seppo Ratty.

Kinnunen did a victory dance in the throwing area after an enormous first effort of 90.82 metres which made him only the third man ever to pass the 90-metre barrier.

The 23-year-old carpenter is the son of a former javelin world record holder and Olympic silver medalist.

Favourite Ratty was out of the medals until he produced a last effort of 88.12 metres to push Vladimir Sasimoviev into the bronze medal position and leave Gavin Lovegrove of New Zealand empty-handed.

"I planned to take the first throw cautiously but I was feeling good so I went for it and it worked," Kinnunen said.

"But after that I lost the feeling and I couldn't do it again," Ratty said. "I knew Kimmo could do it. He was throwing well at our training camp. What can I say? The little tank beat the big tank."

Kenya's Moses Tanni won a thrilling duel with team mate Richard Chelimo to win the men's world 10,000 metres title Monday.

Tanni, a 26-year-old soldier, outpaced Chelimo in the straight after the pair had split the field to win 27 minutes 38.74 seconds.

Chelimo took the lead after just two laps and quickly raced to a 30 metre lead.

He was joined by Tanni and the pair dominated the race, going through the halfway mark in well under world record schedule.

World Cross country champion and race favourite Khalid Skah of Morocco pursued the Kenyans in the final 800 metres but he could not make up the gap and had to settle for the bronze medal.

Renaldo Nehemiah, the former world record-holder in the men's 110-metre high hurdles, was forced to withdraw from the championship Monday because of a back injury.

A press officer for the U.S. squad quoted team physician Dr. Bob Adams as saying that Nehemiah had sprained his lower right back during a workout over the weekend.

"He's improving, but he's not well enough to compete," the officer said Dr. Adams told him.

The first heats of the 110 hurdles were to be run Tuesday.

Nehemiah's absence left the U.S. team with two burdensome two-time defending champion Greg Foster and Jack Pierce.

Nehemiah set the world record of 12.93 seconds in 1981. He held up until 1989, when two-time Olympic gold medalist Roger Kingdom ran 12.92.

This was to be Nehemiah's first appearance on a U.S. international team since he competed in the 1979 World Cup.

Meanwhile Carl Lewis knew many people had written him off and he had to prove himself, despite 12 world and Olympic golds.

So he did. At age 30, eight years after his first world sprint gold, he ran the greatest 100 metres in the history of track and field.

A crowd of 60,000 people, including the Emperor of Japan, roared their acclaim for Lewis Sunday, crowning him as the hero of the 3rd athletics World Championships.

Lewis goes into the books as the new world record holder in the men's 100 metres with 9.86 seconds and the first winner of an individual gold in three world Championships.

"It feels great to be 30 and run the race of my life," he said.

As Lewis became a hero, Jackie Joyner-Kersey faced two days of glory and frustration which eventually ended with a right-leg injury which eliminated her from the heptathlon competition Monday.

The American star had won the long jump on Sunday with a mark of 7.32 metres despite an injured right foot, and she had taken a clear lead in the heptathlon after events when the 200-metre started.

After 80 metres, she pulled up, dropped to the track in pain and had to be carried away on a stretcher.

Leroy Barrell of U.S. suffered another blow in the men's 200 on Monday. He was badly beaten and eliminated from the second round, placing sixth in his heat with 21.21.

He stood up and virtually gave up running some 50 metres from the finish when he realised he could not place in the top and get into the semifinals.

"My calf was bothering me. It is hot, I am tired, I did not get much sleep, I was here till after 11:00. I thought I was up to it, but today I just didn't have any gas," he said.

Another American, Michael Johnson, was the fastest runner in the second round with 20.05.

The 100 metres capped another day of great competition in Tokyo.

Michael Stich did not lose a set in winning the Wimbledon championship, finishing off Emilio Sanchez 6-2, 6-4 in the finals Sunday.

Stich finished off third-seeded Sanchez in one hour, 10 minutes to take the \$18,300 first prize and get a last minute time-up before this week's U.S. Open.

To win the tournament is the best inspiration you can have," said Stich, who'll face Jacco Eltingh of the Netherlands in the first round of the Open.

In the women's final, Brenda Schultz of the Netherlands beat Alexia Dechamne of France, 7-6, (7-5), 6-2. Stich, from Germany, took control of the match early, breaking Sanchez' serve in the third game by outplaying him at the baseline. The German broke Sanchez' serve three times in the match.

Kankkunen wins 1,000 Lakes Rally

JYVASKYLA, Finland (R) — Former world champion Juha Kankkunen finally won his home rally with victory in the 1,000 Lakes, giving Finland their first triumph in the event for three years.

Kankkunen, who inherited the lead after world champion Carlos Sainz crashed Saturday, closed the gap on the Spaniard in the current standings to just 20 points with a 56-second victory in the four-day event.

"Of all the World Championship rallies I have won, this is number one for me," said 1986 world champion Kankkunen.

"I was second once and fifth twice, but at last I have won my home event and I am so happy." Once third-day leader Sainz rolled his car and dropped to fifth.

Kankkunen, in a Lancia, had a clear path to victory and was barely challenged by second-placed Didier Auriol of France, also in a factory Lancia.

The one-two gave Lancia the lead in the Manufacturers' Championship from Toyota. Mitsubishi's Timo Salonen (Finland) and Kenneth Eriksson (Sweden) were third and fourth respectively, with Sainz, who last year became the first non-Scandinavian to win the event, salvaging fifth place.

Qatar eliminates U.S. in U-17 soccer

MONTECATINI, Italy (AP) — Qatar eliminated the United States from soccer's under-17 World Championship, winning the quarterfinal 5-4 on penalty kicks following a 1-1 tie. The United States, which won its three first-round games, took the lead in the second minute on a goal by midfielder Brian Kelly.

Defender Bu Hendi tied the score 12 minutes later. The second half was scoreless and so was 30 minutes of overtime, sending the game to penalty kicks.

Mike Fisher, Nelson Vargas, Cesar Torres and Julio Guzman converted the first four kicks for the United States, but Shawn Bryden was stopped by Qatar goalkeeper Al Rumaithi.

Qatar players made five consecutive kicks and advanced to a semifinal match Wednesday.

Philippines beats Bahrain in basketball

TOKYO (AP) — The Philippines defeated Bahrain 107-83 Monday and advanced to the quarterfinals of the men's Asian Basketball Championship. Bahrain led 49-46 at halftime in the group A match. It was the Philippines' third victory against one defeat. China leads the group with a 4-0 record after its victory over the Philippines Sunday, and also advanced to the quarterfinals.

Also advancing to the quarterfinals were the top two teams in the three other groups — South Korea, Jordan, Taiwan, North Korea, Japan and Iran. In another group A match Monday, Kuwait beat Malaysia 93-74 to finish with a 1-3 record.

Bahrain stood at 2-2 and Malaysia at 0-4. In Group B, Jordan beat Singapore 123-67 and Saudi Arabia beat Sri Lanka 118-55. South Korea led the group with a 4-0 record. Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Singapore were tied at 2-2, but Jordan placed second by scoring 196 points while giving up 164 points.

Saudi Arabia was 181-161 and Singapore 155-207. In Group C, Taiwan beat India 115-99 and North Korea beat Hong Kong 81-71. Taiwan finished at 3-0, North Korea 2-1, Hong Kong 1-2 and India 0-3.

In Group D, Japan ended at 3-0 Sunday, followed by Iran at 2-1, Qatar at 1-2 and Indonesia at 0-3.

Lendl beats Edberg at Hamlet Cup final

COMMACK, New York (R) — Ivan Lendl, struggling to depose Germany's Boris Becker and again become the top-ranked tennis player, took another step Sunday by trouncing second-ranked Stefan Edberg of Sweden 6-3, 6-2 in the finals of the \$250,000 Hamlet Challenge Cup.

The hard-serving Czech, who fell from the top in a year's time, went into the match ranked fifth worldwide and will be back to number four when the new rankings are announced Monday.

"It was nice to win and important for me to win," said Lendl after he reached a 4-1 double service-break lead in the first set and 5-0 in the second.

"Winning breeds winning but I must be careful going into the U.S. Open. One match doesn't mean my game is all the way back now. I mustn't get overconfident." Lendl had not won a tournament since February and underwent hand surgery in May.

Hungary makes biggest splash at European swimming

ATHENS (R) — Three world records from Krisztina Egerszegi and Norbert Rozsa ensured Hungary made the biggest splash at the European Swimming Championships.

Egerszegi crowned the nine-day meeting with a phenomenal swim in the final session which carved virtually two seconds from the women's world 200 metres backstroke record.

The slender 17-year-old turned the opposition into an irrelevance, winning by five seconds in two minutes 6.62 seconds three days after setting a 100 backstroke world mark of 1:00.31.

The double world champion, who began an Athens golden treble in the 400 individual medley, opened up new horizons as she expunged American Betsy Mitchell's 2:08.60 of 1986 and East German Ina Kleiber's 1:00.59 of 1984 from the record books.

"I don't know how long this world record will stand but I know I'm going to be better," Egerszegi, Olympic champion at 14, said after her astonishing 200.

World champion Rozsa gave the swimming programme an explosive start with a 100 freestyle world record in the opening session of heats.

The absence of world and Olympic champion Tamas Darnyi, invincible in individual medley since 1985 but focusing solely on next year's Barcelona Olympics, doubtless deprived Hungary of more gold.

"We are on the way to becoming the world's major swimming force," proclaimed Georg Zemplenyi, the flamboyant entrepreneur whose wealth funds the small elite team.

Rozsa, Zemplenyi's foster-son, sliced 0.16 seconds from the 100 breaststroke mark by shared with Soviet Vasily Ivanov, clocking 1:01.29 in heats, and won the final in 1:01.49, a time posted five times in all by himself and ex-world record holder Adrian Moorhouse.

Olympic champion Moorhouse had to settle for silver behind Rozsa, as he did in last January's Perth World Championships.

Sabatini has tough draw at U.S. Open

NEW YORK (AP) — The No. 1 ranking is so close to Gabriela Sabatini, she can smell it through the aroma of the perfume she is peddling.

It is an elusive scent, more subtle than her name-brand eau-de-toilette, but one she can capture with the help of a second straight U.S. Open title.

Sabatini won't have it easy, though. She begins today with a touch of second-class treatment, a champion playing her first match on the grandstand court instead of on the more prestigious stadium court.

The honour was accorded to the two players she must pass to become No. 1: Steffi Graf and Monica Seles.

If the snub hurt, Sabatini wasn't saying. Instead she tuned up for her opener against Australian Nicole Provis by beating Jennifer Capriati 6-3, 6-3 Sunday in an exhibition at the National Tennis Centre that meant perhaps more psychologically than physically.

Sabatini faces an extraordinarily tough draw, with Australian Open finalist Jana Novotna looming in the fourth round, Capriati in the quarters and Seles in the semis before getting to the side of the draw with Graf and Martina Navratilova.

The victory over Capriati may not have been an indication of things to come, but it did reaffirm for Sabatini her dominance over a player that many feel is ready at age 15 to challenge for a major championship.

Sabatini won their first six matches before losing a few weeks ago in the Canadian Open when she retired with a blister.

Pete Sampras chased a dream in the open a year ago, then ran after a fortune in meaningless matches.

Andy Capp

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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K42 ♠AQ7 ♣32 ♠AQ864
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

A.—The double fit has improved your already good hand, but there is no need for precipitate action. All you need do for the moment is bid three spades. That action is forcing, and gives partner room to further define his hand.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K42 ♠AQ7 ♣32 ♠AQ864
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

A.—Matters continue to get better, and a grand slam might be in the cards. The one road to avoid is taking control by asking for aces. Partner has started a cue-bidding sequence. Continue it by showing the ace of hearts with a return cue-bid of four hearts.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A432 ♠K10765 ♠K8 ♠K8
Partner opens the bidding with three spades. What action do you take?

A.—At this vulnerability, partner shows some seven playing tricks with his preempt, so his hand almost certainly contains an ace. Therefore, you can count nine tricks, and one of your other kings or a ruff could account for the 10th.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠9872 ♠6 ♠K4 ♠AQJ1065
Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?

A.—You do not have the where-withal to bid at the two-level, so you have to adopt a different approach. What partner opens one of a minor and you have a four-card major which you can show at the one-level, do so regardless of suit quality. Bid one spade.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K954 ♠4 ♠A4 ♠AK10873
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with a weak two-heart bid. What action do you take?

A.—If you simply bid three clubs, you run the risk of missing a 4-4 spade fit. Correct is to double for takeout. Should partner bid three diamonds, you are strong enough to try four clubs.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A1054 ♠7642 ♠A932 ♠7
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ Pass Pass Dbl 2 ♠
What action do you take?

A.—Partner's takeout double promises four cards in one major, but not necessarily both. Don't pick a suit unilaterally. Cue-bid three clubs and let partner choose. Despite two aces and a singleton club, don't hang partner for his balancing bid. If he can do no more than bid at the three-level, you should pass.

Mutt'n'Jeff

GOSH, MUTT, I'M DYING FROM THIS HEAT!

WHY DON'T YOU TAKE OFF YOUR HAT AND COAT?

I'M STILL VERY HOT!

WELL, TAKE OFF THAT VEST AND THE REST OF YOUR CLOTHES!

I STILL FEEL VERY WARM!

FOR THE LOVE OF GOD, ARE YOU STILL WEARING YOUR WOOLLY UNDERWEAR?

HEH, MUTT, CAN YOU BEAT THIS? I TOOK OFF MY LONG UNDERWEAR!

AND I FOUND A SWEATER I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR FOR THREE MONTHS!

5-4-1

8-7

8-7

8-7

8-7

8-7

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Philippines beats Bahrain in basketball

TOKYO (AP) — The Philippines defeated Bahrain 107-83 Monday and advanced to the quarterfinals of the men's Asian Basketball Championship. Bahrain led 49-46 at halftime in the group A match. It was the Philippines' third victory against one defeat. China leads the group with a 4-0 record after its victory over the Philippines Sunday, and also advanced to the quarterfinals. Also advancing to the quarterfinals were the top two teams in the three other groups — South Korea, Jordan, Taiwan, North Korea, Japan and Iran. In another group A match Monday, Kuwait beat Malaysia 93-74 to finish with a 1-3 record. Bahrain stood at 2-2 and Malaysia at 0-4. In Group B, Jordan beat Singapore 123-67 and Saudi Arabia beat Sri Lanka 118-55. South Korea led the group with a 4-0 record. Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Singapore were tied at 2-2, but Jordan placed second by scoring 196 points while giving up 164 points. Saudi Arabia was 181-161 and Singapore 155-207. In Group C, Taiwan beat India 115-99 and North Korea beat Hong Kong 81-71. Taiwan finished at 3-0, North Korea 2-1, Hong Kong 1-2 and India 0-3. In Group D, Japan ended at 3-0 Sunday, followed by Iran at 2-1, Qatar at 1-2 and Indonesia at 0-3.

Lendl beats Edberg at Hamlet Cup final

COMMACK, New York (R) — Ivan Lendl, struggling to depose Germany's Boris Becker and again become the top-ranked tennis player, took another step Sunday by trouncing second-ranked Stefan Edberg of Sweden 6-3, 6-2 in the finals of the \$250,000 Hamlet Challenge Cup. The hard-serving Czech, who fell from the top in a year's time, went into the match ranked fifth worldwide and will be back to number four when the new rankings are announced Monday. "It was nice to win and important for me to win," said Lendl after he reached a 4-1 double service-break lead in the first set and 5-0 in the second. "Winning breeds winning but I must be careful going into the U.S. Open. One match doesn't mean my game is all the way back now. I mustn't get overconfident." Lendl had not won a tournament since February and underwent hand surgery in May.

Stich breezes past Sanchez in New York

SCHENECTADY, New York (AP) — Wimbledon champion Michael Stich did not lose a set in winning the OTB International Tournament, finishing off Emilio Sanchez 6-2, 6-4 in the finals Sunday. Stich finished off third-seeded Sanchez in one hour, 10 minutes to take the \$18,300 first prize and get a last minute time-up before this week's U.S. Open. "To win the tournament is the best inspiration you can have," said Stich, who'll face Jacco Eltingh of the Netherlands in the first round of the Open. In the women's final, Brenda Schultz of the Netherlands beat Alexia Dechamne of France, 7-6, (7-5), 6-2. Stich, from Germany, took control of the match early, breaking Sanchez' serve in the third game by outplaying him at the baseline. The German broke Sanchez' serve three times in the match.

Kankkunen wins 1,000 Lakes Rally

JYVASKYLA, Finland (R) — Former world champion Juha Kankkunen finally won his home rally with victory in the 1,000 Lakes, giving Finland their first triumph in the event for three years. Kankkunen, who inherited the lead after world champion Carlos Sainz crashed Saturday, closed the gap on the Spaniard in the current standings to just 20 points with a 56-second victory in the four-day event. "Of all the World Championship rallies I have won, this is number one for me," said 1986 world champion Kankkunen. "I was second once and fifth twice, but at last I have won my home event and I am so happy." Once third-day leader Sainz rolled his car and dropped to fifth. Kankkunen, in a Lancia, had a clear path to victory and was barely challenged by second-placed Didier Auriol of France, also in a factory Lancia. The one-two gave Lancia the lead in the Manufacturers' Championship from Toyota. Mitsubishi's Timo Salonen (Finland) and Kenneth Eriksson (Sweden) were third and fourth respectively, with Sainz, who last year became the first non-Scandinavian to win the event, salvaging fifth place.

Qatar eliminates U.S. in U-17 soccer

MONTECATINI, Italy (AP) — Qatar eliminated the United States from soccer's under-17 World Championship, winning the quarterfinal 5-4 on penalty kicks following a 1-1 tie. The United States, which won its three first-round games, took the lead in the second minute on a goal by midfielder Brian Kelly. Defender Bu Hendi tied the score 12 minutes later. The second half was scoreless and so was 30 minutes of overtime, sending the game to penalty kicks. Mike Fisher, Nelson Vargas, Cesar Torres and Julio Guzman converted the first four kicks for the United States, but Shawn Bryden was stopped by Qatar goalkeeper Al Rumaithi. Qatar players made five consecutive kicks and advanced to a semifinal match Wednesday.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY AUGUST 27, 1991
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Dealing into the school of thought that appeals to you the most and receiving a right response to the various lofty ideal that are yours will produce fixed gains providing many benefits.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Now you can find your own way to increase your income and to have more of this world's goods so lose no time but get at those common sense ways to get ahead.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This is your day to do pretty much whatever you wish so that you are able to gain the good will and active assistance from personal companions.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You can gain any data you need by consulting with those of influential position but you have to do so in private and in confidence now.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Your best friends have all kinds of goodies for you whether in pleasure or more serious outlets so listen to understand what they have to suggest.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You need to be careful what you do of a worldly or career nature but at the same time you have all kinds of opportunities to improve your image.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Now you have it in your power to make that change that has appealed so much to you by taking the bull by the horns and getting allies to go along with you.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) See that you attend to whatever book-keeping problems you have and devise a plan whereby you can go forward to some new set of circumstances appealing to you.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You want to get out from under a deal you have made but by focusing your attention upon it you are able to gain the good will of an ally.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your desire for clearing up that work requiring your attention is fine so waste no time at all but get busy and show your special ability to get things completed.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Now you are able to have a good time as pleasures you the most so stop delaying and fussing and get rid of boredom by agreeable recreations.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is your time to make sure you do what your family desires of you and to get rid of whatever is standing in the path of your feeling secure.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You now are able to find the

Good luck stone: Amethyst.

World Resources: Dajors & Co. Inc.
Jewelry - Gifts

Amman - Rio De Janeiro
Amman - Amra Hotel - 6th floor

THE BETTER HALF

By Barnes



"He's my man for all seasons — especially the holiday."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GYKAW
STALN
KRILLE
DAMMAN

Economy

India's economic reforms seen fanning boom on stock markets

BOMBAY (R) — Two months after deeply indebted India teetered on the brink of default, its stock markets are on an unprecedented bull run buoyed by radical reforms to the socialist economy, stock analysts said.

"There was never any dearth of entrepreneurs," said merchant banker Vallabh Bhanushali. "Only they were all bottled up, tied under state controls."

The reforms, introducing a free trade regime, a new industrial policy aimed at attracting foreign investment and an austere budget, have injected euphoria into the marketplace, he said.

The 30-share index of the Bombay Stock Exchange, the largest of India's 19 bourses, broke the 1,800 barrier to close at an all-time high of 1,902.81 Friday from 1,727.07 a week ago, 1,449.31 a month back and 1,151.27 a year ago.

The 100-stock National Index, comprising five major exchanges, also closed at a record peak of 869.90 Friday, up from 825.73 last week, 701.44 a month back and 593.15 a year ago.

"The stock boom is based on anticipation," said Manohar Pherwani, former head of the Unit Trust of India, the country's biggest investment institution. The trust manages India funds listed on the New York and London stock exchanges.

He said the bulls were unleashed by expectations of new share issues that were held up by general elections in May and by an economic crisis that forced India to pledge its official gold reserves as collateral to raise new loans.

"There's a lot of money floating around and right now it's all going into the secondary market," broker Dinesh Veli said. "There's a scarcity of blue chips."

But sceptics say the boom is really a bubble.

"If (the boom) is not fundamentally supported," said fund manager G.M. Anwar.

"Companies are not doing well in the current year because of a credit squeeze and the high cost of finance. Wait for the half-year results. It's going to be very bad," he pointed out.

Others said several factors, including hopes for new foreign investment, were boosting sentiment anyway.

"India is a functioning democracy with large domestic demand, a vibrant capital market, abundant raw materials, cheap labour and a pool of skilled managers," Mr. Pherwani said.

"As a matter of risk diversification, India is the best place for (export-oriented) foreign investment," said Mr. Bhanushali. "Exports now constitute only nine per cent of our gross national product."

Exports have become a focal point for the stock market because export profits are not taxed, broker Rasesh Maniar said. Two quick devaluations of the rupee by nearly 19 per cent in early July are expected to push exports.

Mr. Bhanushali said a plan to scrap asset limits under the new industrial policy will make mergers and acquisitions easier, enhancing the size of Indian companies to world standards.

Presently, India's biggest private company, Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd., has capital of only 2.3 billion rupees (\$90 million) and an annual turnover of about 25 billion rupees.

A new bonds market was also planned, Mr. Pherwani said. Called the National Stock Exchange, it will cater to debt instruments. "In most countries, the bonds market is larger than stock markets. Our plan is to link 40 cities in India to develop a market for this," he said. Details had yet to be worked out.

Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's economic reforms are in line with conditions set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to bail India out of its economic mess, analysts said.

A multi-billion dollar loan currently being negotiated by the government with the IMF is expected to be granted later this year. India is also asking its aid donors for another \$6 billion.

"The impact of change is really visible," Mr. Pherwani said. "India is being watched, studied with respect."

Brazil wants radical reform to stave off bankruptcy, inflation

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Brazil's government, desperate to stave off bankruptcy and runaway inflation, has proposed radical constitutional reforms to cut spending, raise taxes and woo investment.

The changes, detailed by Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira last week, would scrap public employees' lifetime job guarantees, smash the monopoly of the state telephone holding company, Telebras, and cut state spending.

Other recommendations include powers to curb tax evasion, and to constitutionally-mandated funding for education and the suspension of a widely-ignored clause that limits real interest rates to 12 per cent a year.

The proposed changes to the 1988 constitution — criticised after its adoption for pandering to special interest groups — would need a three-fifths majority of both houses of Brazil's congress for approval.

The government of President Fernando Collor de Mello did not set a date for formally presenting the amendments, saying it wanted politicians' views first.

Mr. Moreira said constitutional change was the only alternative to another economic shock package. Brazil has suffered five drastic economic reform programmes in as many years, but none has succeeded in lowering inflation permanently.

Independent research institutes estimated July inflation at 13 per cent and say August price rises are likely to be higher still. When

monthly inflation nears 20 per cent, speculation about a new economic shock package and Mr. Moreira's dismissal grows.

Economists said one of the prime causes of high inflation in Brazil is the large budget deficit run by both the federal and the state governments.

Central bank president, Francisco Gomes, has predicted an "operational" federal budget deficit of 2.5 per cent in 1991, but economists said if European or U.S. criteria for assessing the deficit were applied, it would be a double-digit figure.

State governments tend to be more spendthrift and federal officials have repeatedly blamed their wasteful ways for helping to undermine Mr. Collor's drive for national austerity and balanced books.

In an effort to win the support of the 27 powerful state governors, the federal government offered to take responsibility for the \$57 billion that the states owe but cannot pay. But the states will have to surrender the right to issue bonds — one of their main sources of finance.

Western diplomats welcomed the proposals, but cautioned that congressional and state opposition was likely to make it hard for Mr. Collor to get the package passed.

"There's a lot of good stuff in there, but it looks awfully ambitious," one diplomat said. "I'm not sure how this sort of thing would get through congress."

The reform proposals made no mention of any plan to privatise the state oil monopoly, Petroleo

Pakistan will not devalue rupee

KARACHI (R) — Pakistan's economy is in good health with foreign currency reserves rising and inflation falling, Finance Minister Saraj Aziz has said.

The foreign exchange reserves have risen by 400 million dollars, Mr. Aziz told reporters.

He said a government decision early this year allowing Pakistanis to open foreign currency bank accounts at home had helped produce the rise in reserves.

According to official figures foreign exchange reserves rose to \$505 million in July from \$491 million in June and \$162 million in March.

The inflation rate will be brought down to 8.0 per cent during the 1991-92 (July/June) financial year from 12.63 per cent last year, Mr. Aziz said, adding: "We will contain the inflation rate to a single digit."

He said exports were rising and there was no need to devalue the Pakistani rupee.

A committee which studied the impact of the Indian rupee's devaluation in July concluded that exports were satisfactory and Mr. Aziz said the devaluation had not affected Pakistan's exports.

Exporters have sought a lower rupee rate after the Indian move, which they say might affect Pakistan's exports of cotton yarn, textiles, garments and leather goods.

Mr. Aziz said budget estimates for the current year were constantly under review and government revenue was 35 per cent higher in July than in previous months.

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Complexities seen difficult to resolve

Government studying insurance schemes to cover Jordan farmers

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government is studying proposals to introduce insurance schemes for farmers in the Kingdom and final plans and details are expected to be worked out before the end of this year, a senior official said Monday.

"It is a complex issue and we are scrutinising two studies prepared on the subject," said Agriculture Secretary General Sami Sunna. "We hope to finalise the scheme before the end of the year," he said.

According to experts in agriculture, crop insurance is one of the most complicated forms of insurance even in some of the most advanced countries, where all scientific data and geographical details are readily available along with mostly accurate projections of climatic changes and environmental features.

"Crop insurance is something that has been talked about in Jordan for the past 10 or 15 years," noted an agriculture expert working with an international agency. "As far as I know no other country in the region has introduced the scheme, if only because of the complexities involved," he said.

According to Dr. Sunna, the proposals under study in Jordan envisage several categories of farmers in line with the nature of the risks involved.

However, he added, the major responsibility lies with the farmers, who, by all counts, have to re-plan and present their projects in a manner conducive to organised insurance acceptable under a certain level of standards.

The insurance schemes will be mostly available to dry land farmers who "run high risks in terms of unexpected events" but will not cover damages incurred through water shortages, Dr.



Threat of frost and other natural calamities highlight need for urgent solution to rescue farmers from accumulating more financial losses before the start of the winter season (File photo).

Sunna told the Jordan Times.

The risk in poultry farming or raising cattle is limited and the owners of such project have to make their own insurance arrangements.

The government will contribute a part of the costs involved in the scheme for dry land farmers, but the projects should have a certain set of prerequisites for qualification, Dr. Sunna said.

"The farmers have to organise themselves and set up projects using modern methods and technology," he said. He did not give details.

Insurance sources said the proposals, which date back at least two years when concerns rose after crops in the Jordan Valley were an almost write-off as a result of a severe frost, involve total coverage against damages resulting from crop failure or weather but only to those who adopt every logical precaution to protect themselves.

According to Sami Gammo, director-general of Middle East Insurance Company, there are existing proposals which are li-

some of the details expected to be requested from the farmers by the insurance companies.

"Obviously, the rate of insurance premiums will be on the higher side and this is also an area where the government has to help the small farmers," Mr. Gammo said.

Jordan Valley farmers say that the very fact that damages resulting from water shortages or bad quality water supplied by the government are not covered does not give them much encouragement to rally behind the scheme in the pipeline.

Polluted water supplied from the King Talal Dam is cited by many experts as the main reason for large damages suffered by Jordan Valley farmers this year. Estimates of loss range between JD 40 million and JD 60 million.

In addition to the loss, farmers say, the infusion of polluted water has also led to contamination of the soil, rendering many farmlands useless for any cultivation for at least this year.

The government this week launched a programme to offer partial compensation to Jordan Valley farmers who suffered from crop damages as a result of the water pollution.

"But such compensation is only a drop in the bucket when considering our original investments," said a leading member of the farmer's community in the Jordan Valley.

"In any event, 'we are keeping an open mind (on the new insurance scheme)'," he said. "We have to see what the government has and can offer us in terms of protection against possible future losses."

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WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Margin traders and arbitrageurs sold to close positions, bringing the Nikkei share average below 22,000 for the first time in four trading days. The Nikkei closed down 473.07 points at 21,522.27.

FRANKFURT — Shares returned to the levels seen on Aug. 16, the last trading day before the crisis in the Soviet Union broke out. The Dax Index ended 26.95 points higher at 1,654.19.

ZURICH — Shares ended a quiet session slightly firmer but below the day's high as the market returned to normal after last week's volatile trading. The All-Share SPI Index closed 2.7 points higher at 1,114.5.

PARIS — The CAC-40 index finished at an 10-week closing high, up 19.95 points or 1.09 per cent at 1,853.38. Volume of some 1.69 billion francs showed French investors venturing back into the market as the summer holidays draw to a close.

LONDON — The market was closed for a one-day national holiday. On Friday, the FTSE Index ended at a new closing high, up 13.35 at 2,640.7.

NEW YORK — Blue chips clung to a firm tone at late morning while the broad market came under mild pressure amid some consolidation of last week's gains. At 1534 GMT, the Dow was down 1.22 at 3,039.13.

CONCORD

BODY ROCK

Show: 3:30, 6:15, 10:30

9 1/2 WEEKS

Show: 5:15, 8:30

NIJOUN

To Be Opened Soon
Nabil Mashini
Theatre

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

PHILADELPHIA

SCHOOL SPIRIT

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

RAINBOW

FAST FOR WORD

Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

\$\$\$ JD 100 REWARD \$\$\$

For the return of my dog:

Description:
Name: PEPPER
Breed: Miniature Schnauzer
Sex: Female
Colour: Salt and Pepper (Dark Gray and White)
White hair on chest
White hair on all legs
Short Tail about 8 cms long
Weight: 10 kilos (approximate)
Height: 32 cms (approximate)
Age: 6 years old
Note: The breed of Miniature Schnauzer has a large growth of hair under their chin which is known as and in appearance looks like a "beard".

PEPPER was last seen in the Green Valley Shopping Centre Thursday (Aug. 23) night at 8:30 p.m.
If you have information leading to the location of this dog please call 829057 (English) or 844371 (Arabic)

\$\$\$ JD 100 REWARD \$\$\$

Baltics await foreign recognition as independent states once again

VILNIUS, USSR (Agencies) — A half-century after being absorbed into the Soviet Union, the Baltic republics are poised for recognition by the West as independent states once again.

Argentina announced Sunday that it was recognising the independence of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. Japan said Monday that it plans to recognise the three.

Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis said a French envoy was expected in Vilnius, the capital, Monday to re-establish diplomatic relations, and Latvian officials said a Danish ambassador was to arrive.

Lithuanian officials also said that they would begin taking control of border points beginning Monday. A crucial session of the Soviet Union's national parliament, the Supreme Soviet, was scheduled in Moscow and Baltic officials expected their independence to come up.

The failed coup by Kremlin hardliners against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev pushed Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia — three small republics in the north-west corner of the Soviet Union — to intensify their drives for independence.

Lithuania declared itself independent almost a year and a half ago, and since then has been engaged in a bitter dispute with Moscow. Latvia and Estonia hedged on independence, but finally declared in the past week.

In the wake of the coup's failure, Mr. Gorbachev appears ready to let the republics go, and on Sunday several Western governments said they would recognise the three.

Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania were independent between World War I and World War II, but they were absorbed by the Soviet Union under a secret agreement with Nazi Germany on the eve of the second war that divided Eastern Europe into spheres of influence.

Countries such as the United States and France never recognised Soviet authority over them. But they also had hung back from establishing relations with Lithuania after it declared its independence.

"Japan, taking into consideration the circumstances under which the three Baltic countries

were incorporated into the Soviet Union, supports peaceful independence" for Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, chief government spokesman Misoji Sakamoto said in a statement Monday in Tokyo.

A Foreign Ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Japan plans to extend them diplomatic recognition but has yet to decide on a timetable. Norway and Denmark announced they were establishing relations with the three republics. Sweden and Finland said they were planning to establish relations. Iceland, which recognised Lithuanian independence in January, was discussing setting up ties with the other two Baltic states.

The European Community was sending a delegation to the Baltics Monday to discuss recognition. Belgium said it will follow the EC lead.

"France is ready to establish relations with the three Baltic states" and hopes the entire European Community will follow suit, Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said on the French television network TF1.

Mr. Dumas said Paris would favour establishing relations in a joint action with the other EC members.

U.S. Secretary of Defence Dick Cheney said that Washington's diplomatic recognition of Baltic independence will take place in "a relatively short period of time."

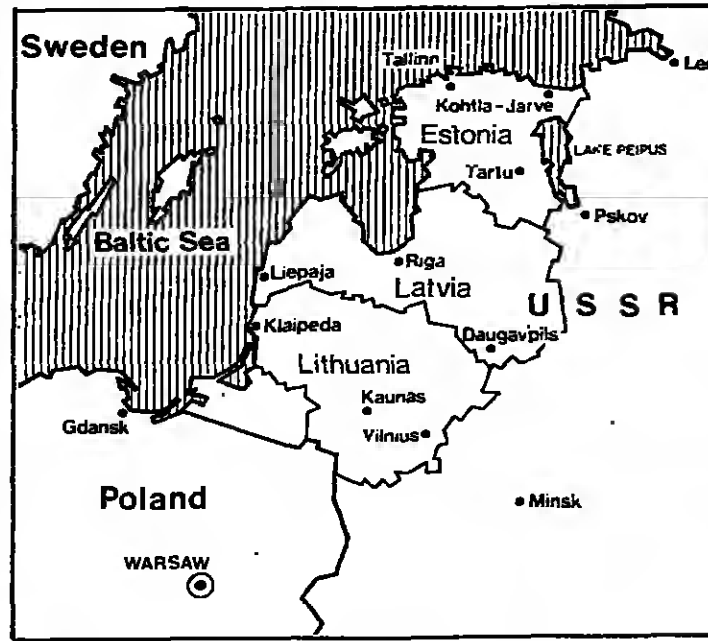
"I think that is basically a question of formality at this point," he said on the U.S. television network NBC.

"There are still a number of mechanical problems that need to be sorted out, but I think it's just a matter of time," Mr. Cheney said.

German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher Sunday invited his Baltic counterparts to come to Bonn as early as Tuesday to discuss diplomatic recognition if the Baltic states gain independence from the Soviet Union.

Britain's Prime Minister John Major said Sunday that Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg will travel to the Baltics states in the next few days for meeting with their leaders.

Mr. Landsbergis appealed to the Soviet parliament Sunday to annul what he said was the final



document formalising the Soviet seizure of the three Baltic republics.

Mr. Landsbergis said a 1940 agreement between Stalin's Soviet Union and Hitler's Nazi Germany was the final document tying Vilnius to Moscow rule. But he stressed such an annulment was a formality.

"We are free. It's a formal question only, but it would then be completely resolved. It would be easier for us," Mr. Landsbergis told journalists.

Mr. Gorbachev's spokesman, Vitaly Ignatenko, told Cable News Network in Moscow Sunday that "there is no one today to prevent the national republics to choose their own road" within the framework of the constitution and the law.

"We are on the eve of major shifts in the situation in the Baltic states, but everything will proceed with the participation of the president," Mr. Gorbachev, said Mr. Ignatenko.

Poland is ready to establish diplomatic relations with Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski said Monday.

"Taking into account recent declarations by Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia concerning their independence, the Polish government expresses its readiness to establish normal inter-state relations with these republics," Mr.

Skubiszewski said after an emergency meeting of Poland's inner cabinet.

In Wellington, Prime Minister Jim Bolger said Monday New Zealand is ready to recognise the independence of the three Baltic states from the Soviet Union. Wellington recognised and dealt with countries after they had established sovereignty, he told a news conference.

"The events of recent days have clearly speeded up the return to sovereignty of the Baltic States. We will certainly deal with them directly when that sovereignty has been established," he said.

"With the speed that events are moving in that part of the world, I would expect it quite soon."

While most Western governments kept their fears to themselves, an adviser to European Commission President Jacques Delors said a breakup of the Soviet Union, with more than 100 nationalities and ethnic groups, could make the undeclared civil war in Yugoslavia look "like a village tea-party."

China, which crushed its own pro-democracy movement in 1989, signalled alarm that a Soviet breakup could spread unrest across its border, issuing a veiled warning to its restive Muslim minority in remote Xinjiang province.

Coup failed when KGB refused to storm Russian parliament

MOSCOW (AP) — One by one, 20 KGB commanders refused to storm the Russian Parliament building in what may have been the turning point in last week's coup against President Mikhail Gorbachev, Boris Yeltsin has said.

Mr. Yeltsin said in an interview with Russian television that commanders of the KGB's elite, anti-terrorist Alpha Group resisted intense pressure, including "threats of court-martial, execution, etc." by their superiors.

The parliament building was the focal point of the opposition during the coup and was surrounded by tens of thousands of Muscovites for three days to stave off an attack.

"It was a complete surprise to all the KGB leadership" when the commanders refused to storm the 19-story structure last Tuesday night and Wednesday morning, Mr. Yeltsin said.

"About 20 commanders were invited and bullied, one by one. Not one of them agreed," he said. "Then all were gathered in a gym, but they said no, and once again no."

Mr. Yeltsin said the commanders should be considered saviours of "Russia, the Soviet Union and the world."

He said the Alpha Group — armed with grenade-launchers, anti-tank missiles and other powerful weapons — originally was ordered to "disperse" the people in front of the building and break inside last Tuesday night at 6 p.m.

Because the commanders balked, the time for the attack was postponed until 8 p.m., then 10 p.m., then 1 a.m. Wednesday, then 3 a.m., according to the Russian president.

When dawn broke Wednesday and the building had not been taken, the coup quickly fell apart. Mr. Gorbachev regained control of the country Wednesday afternoon after two and a half days under house arrest in the Crimea.

Mr. Yeltsin said he learned of the plans to storm the building from both defectors and documents.

The KGB troops were supposed "to deliver crushing blows from all sides on the first floor, shoot everything, all that was alive, doors, windows, everything, break into the building through them ... then penetrate into the president's offices and capture the president," Mr. Yeltsin said, referring to himself.

If there was any possibility that Mr. Yeltsin might escape, the troops were under orders to shoot him, he said.

In addition, they were given a list of 11 other people to capture or "preferably to shoot" during the storming.

Mr. Yeltsin described the eight-member committee that ran the coup as "a fascist junta" that "would have destroyed thousands of people without a tremor."

But he said the committee had broad support within the upper levels of the Soviet government and Communist Party, and he called for a thorough investigation to determine who may have been behind the committee.

All of the coup leaders have been arrested except Boris Pugo, the former interior minister, who died last week in a possible suicide.

Meanwhile a Soviet soldier said Sunday that his tank unit had no plans to storm the Russian parliament building.

Battle rages after Croats attack army positions

BELGRADE (R) — A fierce battle raged in eastern Croatia Monday after Croatian forces attacked Yugoslav army positions in retaliation for a weekend of heavy assaults by the army and Serb guerrillas.

Croatian National Guardsmen and police attacked army barracks with mortar and machinegun fire in the town of Vukovar in the breakaway republic's eastern Slavonia region Sunday night, the Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug, said.

Croatian Deputy Defence Minister Milan Brezak told reporters in Zagreb that guardsmen and police destroyed nine army tanks in the battle as it continued Monday with the army again bombarding Vukovar, a town of 50,000 people.

Croatian forces also fired machineguns at army positions on the River Mali Strug south of Okucani in western Slavonia, which became a major new battlezone in the bloody Serb-Croat conflict a week ago, Tanjug said. The army defended itself against the attacks by firing artillery.

The army is supposed to keep apart the belligerents in Yugoslavia's second-largest republic, where Serb guerrillas have been fighting for control of Serb-populated areas since Croatia declared independence on June 25.

But over the past week the army has become deeply embroiled by openly fighting on the Serbian side. Its planes rocketed and strafed several towns and villages and it bombed Vukovar from the land, air and the River Danube throughout the weekend.

"The army is now taking the initiative in the fighting," Mr. Brezak said, adding that previously only the Serb guerrillas had been in the frontline.

Mr. Brezak said clashes also erupted in Kijevo, in the west Croatian region of Karjina, where Serbs have declared autonomy.

Mr. Brezak said 29 Croatian militia and 40 civilians had been killed and 5,000 grenades originating from army stocks had been used against Croatian forces

since the increasingly ineffectual Yugoslav federal presidency ordered a ceasefire on Aug. 7.

In the past few days the army had also started sending lone assassins into Croatian strongholds, Mr. Brezak said.

A member of the federal commission set up to monitor the ceasefire, its spokesman Irfan Ajkanovic, announced his resignation Monday, describing the task as impossible.

Mr. Ajkanovic, deputy speaker of Yugoslavia's parliament, said he was quitting because "it is impossible to carry out the decision of the (Yugoslav) presidency on an unconditional and absolute ceasefire in crisis areas in Croatia with the existing definition of the confronted sides and the current role and position of the Yugoslav People's Army in war hotbeds."

Miodrag Simovic, deputy prime minister of the central republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, which has a mixed population of Muslims, Serbs and Croats and is squeezed between Croatia and the largest republic Serbia, said the fighting was spreading to Bosnian territory and asked the army to secure its borders.

Last weekend some of the mortars fired in battles inside Croatia landed in Bosnia.

If widespread violence hits Bosnia, many Yugoslavs feel it could match or even eclipse anything seen so far in the federation because of the republic's explosive ethnic mix.

In Vienna, Austrian leaders Sunday urged countries preparing to recognise the three Baltic republics to give similar consideration to the efforts of Slovenia and Croatia to leave Yugoslavia.

Foreign Minister Alois Mock told Austrian television that Austria's coalition government was likely to discuss the independence drive of the Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania Monday.

"The same thing is now happening in two Yugoslav republics, Slovenia and Croatia, which are trying to obtain their independence, and I think more attention should be paid to their cases," Mr. Mock said.

Sihanouk criticises U.S., says compromise possible

PATTAYA, Thailand (AP) — Prince Norodom Sihanouk Monday accused Washington of hindering progress towards peace in Cambodia, but expressed optimism that the country's warring sides could find a compromise solution.

Prince Sihanouk, who heads Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC), arrived at his seaside resort for a week of talks to try to end Cambodia's 12-year-long civil war.

The fighting has displaced hundreds of thousands of Cambodians, leaving many hungry and homeless in one of the world's poorest countries.

The council, an interim body made up of the four Cambodian factions, was to convene later Monday to negotiate differences over a United Nations peace plan. The plan provides for a monitored truce, demobilisation and extensive U.N. supervision of the Phnom Penh government prior to elections.

On his arrival, the prince said he hoped the United States would be "kind enough" not to unravel any consensus reached by the Cambodian parties, which include the pro-Hanoi government in Phnom Penh and three guerrilla groups which have battled it.

The United States and other countries have said the U.N. plan was the best chance for peace, and that Cambodians could negotiate its details but should not make any major changes. Otherwise, they say, the peace settle-

ment will be too fragile. The Cambodian factions have all supported the basic framework of the plan but the Phnom Penh government has demanded amendments.

On the eve of the conference, Phnom Penh Premier Hun Sen also expressed concern that some foreign countries would be "obstructive" during the negotiations.

U.S. officials declined to comment on what appeared to be moves by the Cambodians to paint U.S. policy as a stumbling block to peace.

Prince Sihanouk said the three guerrilla groups, seemed to be "more flexible than ever" and would be able to achieve an understanding with the Phnom Penh government. He said other conditions conducive to peace include rapprochement between Vietnam, the government's key backer, and China, the major supporter of the Khmer Rouge.

On Sunday, Mr. Hun Sen said his government agreed to demobilise 40 per cent of its army during the period before the U.N.-supervised elections.

Phnom Penh previously had insisted on keeping its entire army. The 12-member SNC will meet for three days, then confer with representatives of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council which drafted the Cambodian peace plan.

The United States, Soviet Union, China, France and Great Britain.

Chinese president arrives in Mongolia

ULAN BATOR, Mongolia (R) — China's hardline President Yang Shangkun arrived in Mongolia's capital Monday as city employees worked feverishly to clean up the detritus of a huge anti-Communist protest the night before.

Mr. Yang, on the first official visit to Mongolia by a Chinese leader in more than 40 years, was greeted at the airport by Mongolian President Punsalmaagiya Ochirbat and other officials.

"I am very happy to come to the beautiful People's Republic of Mongolia on an official and friendly visit," Mr. Yang said in a speech distributed to journalists.

Bright Chinese and Mongolian flags decorated the capital, Ulan Bator. But in the city centre, workers were scrapping yellow paint off a statue of Lenin that was targeted by thousands of protesters in a large anti-Communist demonstration Sunday.

The protest, sparked by news of the rapid collapse of communism in the Soviet Union, was organised by the country's fledgling democratic parties to demand that Mongolia's ruling Communist Party step down.

Mr. Yang began his three-day visit as China and Mongolia tried to come to grips with the new union in Moscow, which reassessed its iron political grip over Mongolia only last year.

Following the lead of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, Mongolia held its first free elections. Now pledged to pluralism, the Communists were returned — but now share power with a number of emerging new democratic political parties.

China's Communist Party, by contrast, solved its problem with pro-democracy protests by sending troops and tanks to crush demonstrators in Peking's Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989.

Mongolia is turning to China to help revive its shattered economy, which is reeling from the withdrawal of Soviet aid. During his visit, Mr. Yang is expected to hand Mongolia a major new credit deal from Peking involving both a loan and forgiveness of some earlier debts.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

7 killed in S. African violence

CAPE TOWN (R) — Seven people, died in South African political clashes mainly around Johannesburg and Cape Town Sunday, police reported Monday. A black gunman and a soldier were killed in a shootout in the Mandela Park shanty settlement west of Johannesburg and two other black men were found shot to death in the same area. In White City district of Soweto, near Johannesburg, a mob stabbed and stoned a man to death in an incident which police said was politically motivated. Other fatal attacks occurred in Cape Town, where a man was burned to death in a hut, and near the Indian Ocean towns of Port Shepstone, where a man was stabbed to death. More than 2,000 people have died in political violence over the past year, but the level of killings has dropped since rival groups joined church-sponsored peace talks.

The government, the African National Congress and the Inkatha Freedom Party are expected to sign a peace accord on Sept. 14 to limit the carrying of dangerous weapons and to impose a code of conduct for police and political parties.

Papandreou's corruption trial resumes

ATHENS (R) — The trial of former Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, charged in connection with a \$200 million bank embezzlement scandal, resumed Monday after a two-week summer recess. Prime minister from 1981 to 1989, Mr. Papandreou and four of his former ministers were charged in September 1989 by the Greek parliament with accepting millions in bribes, a major factor in the Socialist election defeat in June 1989. The case against Mr. Papandreou rests largely on the testimony of former banker George Koskotas, who has told the court he was forced to bribe Mr. Papandreou with money he stole from the Bank of Crete which he formerly owned. The highly-publicised trial started in March and is expected to end in November. If convicted Mr. Papandreou could face a life term in jail.

Sri Lankan policemen's remains found

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Government troops have unearthed two mass graves containing the remains of 20 policemen believed to have been abducted by Tamil rebels last year, police said Monday. "The bodies were only skeletons and all had their hands bound behind their backs," a police inspector said. He said the skeletons, draped in police uniforms, were found over the weekend in a cemetery in Kalawanchikudi town in the eastern district of Batticaloa. The inspector spoke on the condition of anonymity by telephone from Kalawanchikudi, 220 kilometres east of the capital of Colombo. The victims are said to be among the more 800 policemen kidnapped by the Tamil Tigers in June 1990 when they raided several police stations. The raids broke a 13-month ceasefire and reignited the war for Tamil independence that began in 1983. More than 8,000 people have been killed in the insurrection during the last 14 months.

Greek Communists are in crisis

ATHENS (R) — Greek Communists have come under heavy fire from reformers and the press for supporting the failed Soviet coup, a move described as political suicide for the country's third biggest party. As most of the world condemned the hardliners' coup against Mikhail Gorbachev last week, the Greek Communist Party (KKE) hailed it as "a positive step toward revitalising socialism." Reformers who left KKE this year condemned their former leaders and journalists at the official party paper Rizospastis asked for the Central committee's resignation. KKE stood its ground even after the coup failed, firing Rizospastis' editor-in-chief and threatening to dismiss another 61 journalists who denounced party policy. "After the recent events it is common knowledge that KKE hurt itself seriously... its leadership is now also being attacked from within," political analyst Angelos Stangos said in an editorial in the conservative daily Kathimerini.

Captive Gorbachev recorded tape condemning coup

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet television has shown a video tape made by President Mikhail Gorbachev during his captivity last week to persuade the world to reject the coup against him.

The dramatic black-and-white tape, shown Sunday evening, was made on a home video camera by Mr. Gorbachev and his son-in-law Anatoly in the dead of night at their summer home in the Crimea, where they were held for 72 hours.

Mr. Gorbachev, facing the camera in a housecoat and shirt, denounced as liars, the plotters who seized power last Monday.

He denied claims by his Vice-President Gennady Yansyev, head of the Emergency Committee of hardline Communists behind the coup, that he had been incapacitated by ill-health.

"Everything that has been said by Comrade Yansyev and in the statement by this committee is a brazen lie. A state crime has been committed," he said in a calm but strained voice.

Cheers, L.A. Law, and Sir John Gielgud win Emmys

PASADENA, California (R) — The hit series Cheers, the most nominated show in U.S. television history, led the field with four Emmy Awards Sunday, including best comedy series.

Kirstie Alley won for Best Actress in a comedy series and her co-star, Bebe Neuwirth, captured the Supporting Actress Emmy for their roles in the comedy set in a Boston bar.

James Burrows was named Best Director for the comedy series.

"People go to our bar like they go to a real bar. They pull up a chair and just relax," he said of the show, which has received 101 Emmy nominations in its nine-year history.

The Emmys are the industry's highest honour and winners are chosen by the Academy of Television Arts and Science.

The NBC series L.A. Law, the

story of life in a Los Angeles law office, was named Best Drama Series, the fourth time it has won the award.

Sir John Gielgud, 87, won his first Emmy for Best Actor in a miniseries or a television special for his role as the interfering father-in-law in Summer's Lease.

One of the most popular winners of the night was film star Burt Reynolds, who won his first Emmy for his television series Evening Shade.

"I have never been nominated for anything and I have never won anything. But, by hell, I have now," he said to cheers from the audience.

Patricia Wettig, a repeat winner, had the ironic touch of winning the award for Best Actress in a drama series for her role of Nancy Weston in Thirtysomething — an ABC show the network cancelled.

In accepting the award, Wettig

said: "This is my last time to say goodbye to the character of Nancy Weston. It is kind of sad, but I have enjoyed being Nancy."

A second star of the Thirtysomething, Timothy Busfield, won the Emmy for Best Supporting Actor in a drama series for his work on the show.

Many of the television stars wore red ribbons on their gowns and tuxedos to show support for the AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) research campaign as they packed Pasadena Civic Auditorium for the televised show.

The hit CBS series Murphy Brown, starring Candice Bergen, and a special award for cable television's home box office, The Josephine Baker Story, each won two awards at Sunday's ceremony, bringing their totals to five apiece. They had received technical and artistic awards at a non-televised ceremony Satur-

day. Lynn Whitfield won her first Emmy for playing the title role in The Josephine Baker Story, and her husband, Briton Brann Gibson, won the award for Best Director in a miniseries or a special for the show.

Broadway actor James Earl Jones won two Emmys: One for Best Actor in a drama for his series Gabriel's Fire and the other for Best Supporting Actor in a miniseries or a television special for his role in Heat Wave.

The Emmys even paid tribute to another award programme — the Academy Awards earned honours for its writers, producers and host comedian Billy Crystal.

The ABC Television Network received 11 awards followed by NBC with eight, CBS and Public Broadcasting Service with three each, HBO with two and Turner Network Television Cable Service with one.

COLUMN

Raisa Gorbachev is 'feeling better'

MOSCOW (AP) — Raisa Gorbachev was feeling better after suffering an apparent attack of nerves following a coup attempt against her husband, a presidential spokesman said. "The state" of (Mrs. Gorbachev's) health is improving and she is recovering, Russian television quoted presidential spokesman Vitaly Ignatenko as saying Sunday.

"She had a strong attack, which caused concern for her life," Mr. Ignatenko was quoted as saying. Mrs. Gorbachev, 59, reportedly was resting at the family's country home northwest of the city. Mr. Ignatenko said Sunday morning that Mrs. Gorbachev was "sick. But I cannot say it is serious." He said she had not "been feeling well since being in the Crimea."

Raisa Gorbachev was last seen in public getting off an airplane at a Moscow airport after three days in captivity with Gorbachev, their daughter Irina, son-in-law Alexander and two granddaughters. Mrs. Gorbachev was walking alone and carrying one of the sleeping grandchildren in her arms, witnesses said.

TASS wants 'independence'

MOSCOW (R) — The official Soviet News Agency, TASS, which told the world a week ago that Communist hardliners were taking over from President Mikhail Gorbachev, should be independent, according to a group of its journalists. The agency, for decades the mouthpiece of the Kremlin, has said that Russian Information Minister Mikhail Poltoranin backed the transformation plan and promised that financing would continue until the reorganisation was completed.

"The essence of the plan is to transform TASS from a state organisation into an independent news agency," it said. Russian President Boris Yeltsin, rapidly gaining ascendancy over Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, accused TASS of participating in the coup after it broadcast statements by the hardline "emergency committee" which briefly seized power. On Saturday he sacked TASS Director Lev Spiridonov and Albert Vlasov, chairman of the semi-official Novosti News Agency, for transmitting disinformation.

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (R) — Alaska has loaded a gift of 9,000 cans of pink salmon into an Aeroflot jet bound from Anchorage to the Soviet Far East. The salmon, destined for the cities of Magadan and Khabarovsk, is a gift to celebrate democracy from the state of Alaska to its eastern neighbour, Alaska's governor said. "I think it's a great day for democracy and for freedom and for the young of the world," Governor Walter Hickel said as he stood on the tarmac with the boxes of salmon awaiting loading. Eventually, up to 2.7 million kilograms of donated salmon will be sent across the Bering Sea, Mr. Hickel said. The first shipment totalled 4,500 kilograms, he said. Hickel said he came up with the idea of giving away excess salmon Wednesday, when the rightwing coup against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev collapsed. The donation helps Alaska to clear out Prince William Sound bays that are choked with a tarry salmon return. Exxon Corp. has paid for the salmon canning and shipment. Otto Harrison, Exxon's Alaska operations manager, said the company expected to spend about \$2 million canning and sending salmon to the Soviet Far East.

How old is old?

POUGHKEEPSIE, New York (AP) — Life may begin at 40, but it's big step closer toward middle age. Just ask anybody. That's what pollster and baby boomer Lee Miringoff, who runs the Marxist College Institute for Public Opinion, has asked approximately 600 people if they thought they were young, middle-aged or old. In 1987, when Miringoff was 36 years old, 88 per cent said he was young. In 1990, when the pollster was 39, only 71 per cent thought he was young. Then 1991 hit. Mr. Miringoff turned 40 and the tide of public opinion turned even more strongly against him. Only 58 per cent of the people he polled thought he was still young. More than 41 per cent said he was middle-aged. "That's why you body holds on 'til 39," Miringoff said. There was consolation: Hardly anyone said he was old.